



# Media Release

THURSDAY 26 AUGUST, 2021

## COMMUNITY PALLIATIVE CARE – PLEASE HELP US HELP THOSE MOST VULNERABLE IN THE COMMUNITY.

During COVID, we at EPC have been the quiet achievers when people who are very unwell did not want to go to hospital. No one talks about health professionals who work in the community. We provide specialist palliative care to people at home. People fear getting COVID while in hospital or are reluctant to be admitted to hospital due to hospital limitations on visitors. To have a serious condition that may mean you are dying and not be able to have your family around you is not acceptable for most people. This is where EPC steps in and steps up!

Our specialist nurses visit clients during the day and when needed overnight – **it is a 24 hour service**. All other services are provided during business hours. If our services were not available, people would need to be admitted to hospital for the care that is required. **We prevent hospitalisations.**

### What have we learned through COVID?

The stress on all our staff supporting clients to remain at home has been enormous. Nurses have been out more often at night. Last year, **one of our nurses was pulled up by the police** in the early hours of the morning and when she told them where she was going and why, they offered to escort her to the client's home. The nurse had to refuse the kind offer as the added stress of seeing a police car pull up out the front of their house would have been too much for the family of the client she was visiting. It can be a lonely job at times and it certainly has its challenges.

When people do not do the right thing such as staying home when required and getting vaccinated, this increases the risk to our staff who are all visiting people in their homes. Each of our nurses will visit 4-5 clients in their homes every day. Allied Health staff will also visit numerous homes each day. If one of our staff were inadvertently infected with COVID-19, the potential to spread it to many clients and their family members is extremely high. We are asking our staff to get vaccinated to help protect our clients and their families. This will help keep them and the community safer, but this is not enough.

We need everyone in the community to stay at home and to be vaccinated. If people in our communities do not follow the Health Orders, our jobs become much more difficult and our staff and our services are at risk

This is our call out to everyone in Victoria to help health professionals who work in the community by helping to keep us all safer. Please, stay home, wear a mask when outside, and get vaccinated as soon as you can. If you have any symptoms, please get tested.

**STAY HOME, WEAR A MASK WHEN OUT, GET TESTED IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS AND GET VACCINATED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

### PHOTO/STORY OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE INCLUDING INTERVIEWS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

**Jeanette Moody** – CEO of EPC – Available for immediate comment and/or interview

**Kylie Draper** – Manager of Nursing and Medical Services – Available for immediate comment and/or interview

**Peita Carroll** – Manager Human Resources, Volunteer Services and Communication. Available for comment.

### Media Contact

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