

MEDIA RELEASE

Aged care staff reach vaccination milestone

23 September 2021

COVID-19 vaccinations of staff in private residential aged care facilities in the Murray Primary Health Network (PHN) region reached 99 per cent this week.

The Murray PHN region spans from Mildura in the north west, to Woodend in the south, across to Seymour and up to Albury - an area of almost 100,000 square kilometres.

To reach the milestone, more than 3700 residential aged care staff across 80 facilities in the region received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose from late July.

Melitta Zobec, Care Services Manager at Warramunda aged care in Kyabram said many of the facility's staff initiated getting vaccinated before they could organise an in-house vaccination clinic.

"More than half of our staff were vaccinated before we could access vaccine doses as an aged care facility," she said.

"We are pleased and extremely proud that 100 per cent of our residential care team members have now had at least their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccination or have an upcoming appointment to meet the national framework timeframe. This is a wonderful outcome for us all and we are grateful for our team's proactive approach to protecting our residents, our community and each other."

Rose Tunious, Service Manager at Mercy Health Bethlehem Home for the Aged in Golden Square said all their facility's staff have received their COVID vaccinations.

"Vaccination clinics commenced here in April and we're thrilled that 100 per cent of our staff have now received their COVID vaccination," she said. "We're grateful for the uptake from staff who expressed their understanding of the potential risk of the spread of the virus in our Bethlehem home and the community."

Kate McIntosh, Murray PHN COVID Vaccination Strategic Lead said, "We're really appreciative of the work that the management and staff of each of the facilities have done to meet this milestone. It has been a real team effort."

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