

MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 14 July 2020

Advocates for older people monitoring Victorian outbreaks closely

The Older Persons' Advocacy Network (OPAN) and its Victorian member Elder Rights Advocacy (ERA) are on the ground in Victoria to monitor the impact of the coronavirus and visitation restrictions on older people who access aged care services.

OPAN and ERA are carefully monitoring outbreaks and looking to provide direct support to older people and families to resolve any issues or problems that arise during restrictions and testing.

This is a distressing time for everyone, but in particular older Australians who are at increased risk both of the virus itself and social isolation.

It is extremely important that older people, their carers and families are aware of the advocacy services available to them so that they can get help navigating complex issues in aged care.

This is even more important during the pandemic when there are extreme pressures on aged care workers, families and older people themselves.

There is a delicate yet extremely important balance to be struck between the rights of an older person and appropriate disease control measures. This is our priority to ensure this balance is found and maintained.

OPAN and ERA are working with families, providers and older people to succeed in this difficult but essential mission.

OPAN and ERA are asking all media to publish details of the helpline in all related stories so that older people and families can get the support they need during this difficult time.

Advocacy services provided by OPAN & ERA are free and confidential. The advocacy hotline operates 6am–10pm seven days a week.

Call 1800 700 600 or visit open.com.au

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