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### **Press Release: Coronavirus: A positive message from the home care service sector**

There is no denying we are all facing a period of uncertainty in knowing how the coronavirus (COVID 19) pandemic may affect us and our loved ones. However, we would like to reassure our clients and their families that Community Care TASMANIA is doing everything possible to ensure we maintain our services to our clients, and to keep our Support Workers in work.

We know clients rely heavily on us for support, as do our staff for income. This is our core business, and despite new challenges, we are up to the task.

Our dedicated and wonderful Support Workers are busier and working harder than ever in delivering the assistance many people rely on to help them get up in the morning, shower and dress, shop and prepare meals, and get through the day. While job losses are, and will unfortunately continue to occur in many industries forced to curtail/limit their operations at this time, our sector has, and will continue to have plenty of work.

Protocols to mitigate the spread of coronavirus are in place in our sector; as they are with any health concern that arises that may put the people we support at risk. While we are in uncharted waters with the coronavirus, it is important for all of us to remember that the spread of coronavirus can be greatly curtailed by all of us taking the simple measures advocated by government medical advice, such as thoroughly cleaning our hands and the things we touch using soap and water and/or a 60%+hand sanitiser and wipes, exercising social distancing of 1.5 metres, and avoiding travel and large gatherings for the time being. Staying at home as much as possible is likewise important, if you don't really need to go out stay tucked up nice and safe at home.

In Tasmania we are fortunate that our relative geographic isolation affords us greater protection from the spread of coronavirus: the risk of contagion for most of us is low. We would like to applaud our clients and our staff for their kind and courteous cooperation as we navigate these exceptional times. Thank you for calmly dealing with new situations and instructions as they arise, and for exercising good old-fashioned common sense in ensuring every precaution is taken to keep us all safe. We would like to assure you that everyone will be cared for. If we need to step up or increase services, be it more shopping and the like, we can and will do so.

Providing essential home care for older people and people with disabilities is vital, and we hope that by letting people know that in our sector it is business as usual may be reassuring.

Community Care TASMANIA will do its best to provide immediate care for anyone who is frail, elderly, isolated or has a disability if there is an immediate need and there is no alternative. We can help with personal care, shopping for food and medical supplies and we can prepare meals through our Dial and Angel Program. If you're alone and have no support please call our local number 1300 722 400.

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