



St Basil's Homes for the Aged in Victoria

ABN: 41 070 511 616

24 Lorne Street Fawkner VIC 3060

Email: manager@stbasilsvic.com.au

Telephone 9358 4444

Facsimile 9357 1677

Office of Chairman –

Please respond by email |to email address above and also copy kon@kontis.com.au

Adj Prof Brett Sutton

Chief Health Officer

Department of Health and Human Services

22 July 2020

Dear Prof Sutton,

I refer to your letter of 21 July 2020 and respond as follows.

It appears we are left with no alternative than to follow your direction that all our staff are to vacate St Basil's today and our facility will then be operated solely by Commonwealth Department of Health officers and replacement agency staff under their direction. We have been advised in no uncertain terms by DHHS that if we do not accede to your requests then an official order will be issued which will be a much worse outcome for St Basil's.

We also note that our entire leadership and management team will be completely sidelined so it cannot be said that we are in control or managing the facility during this period as we will not have any supervisory or oversight input whatsoever for the duration of the period during which our staff are in mandatory isolation.

For the record, we reiterate our concern that we have no confidence that the replacement staff are not also infected with COVID-19 or may become infected by COVID-19 by community transmission given all of these people are coming from the same pool of workers who have either been working in other facilities or have other risk factors inherent to this pool of workers. Furthermore, we do not know who any of these replacement staff are and whether they are competent or trustworthy to provide care to our residents. The agency which was suggested by DHHS operatives appears to be a labour hire firm which takes no responsibility whatsoever for the actions of the staff they provide. We further have no way of knowing whether there will be adequate supervision by the government appointed managers of the replacement staff and whether those managers have the capabilities and experience to manage a facility of this type.

We can only hope that the facility will be run properly until our staff and management team complete their mandatory self-isolation period and return to work as agreed on 30 July 2020.

We have received feedback today from the relatives of several of our resident that they are extremely concerned at the prospect that all our staff will be replaced for a period of time as well as the lack of consultation by DHHS and Department of Health with the families of the residents.

We have always held and continue to hold the best interest of our residents and staff at the forefront of our priorities as have the dedicated and loyal staff and management of our facility. Notwithstanding all of the concerns noted above, and as we have always stated, we continue in our desire to cooperate fully with DHHS in the hope that this will provide the best outcome for our residents.

Yours sincerely

Konstantin H Kontis

Chairman

St Basil's Homes for the Aged in Victoria

CC His Eminence Archbishop Makarios of Australia.