



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

MEDIA STATEMENT

St Basil's notes today's release of the final report into two COVID-19 outbreaks in Victoria, commissioned by the Commonwealth Department of Health.

St Basil's rejects a number of findings made in the report on the basis these findings are not supported by evidence, including any claim that it was not adequately prepared for a COVID-19 outbreak or that it did not comply with COVID-19 outbreak management protocols.

St Basil's management and staff were working well and adhering to all government and health authority directives and advice in relation to the preparation for and management of a COVID-19 outbreak up until St Basil's was directed by the Victorian government to vacate the premises on the morning of 22 July 2020.

The home was inspected a number of times by independent and government authorities up until 22 July 2020, each of whom found that appropriate action was being taken by St Basil's management and staff to combat the outbreak.

That changed dramatically when contractors engaged by the Commonwealth moved in and took over the management of the facility on 22 July.

The final report notes that in the past three months systemic improvements have been implemented in the aged care sector in Victoria which have been designed to strengthen resilience and support for aged care facilities and minimise the scale and impacts of future outbreaks.

St Basil's is currently working with its staff, residents and their families, to ensure that systemic improvements in the aged care sector are fully implemented to minimise the risk of any future outbreaks. As recorded in the Final Report, since the return of management to St Basil's "*the repatriation has really gone fairly seamlessly. The care of the residents has been excellent*".

St Basil's will not be making any further comment at this time.

21 December 2020