

# CARING FOR ISOLATED AGED PARENTS DURING COVID-19

**As the coronavirus crisis continues, many of us are concerned with the health and wellbeing of elderly relatives in aged care.**

Danielle Robertson, Financial Adviser, AFA member

Over the past week I have received a spike in calls from expat and interstate children seeking care visits for their suddenly isolated parents. With social distancing measures in place, they can no longer rely on the usual assistance of fit and able elderly relatives and friends.

Here's my advice if you're also in this situation:

## 1 Arrange Private In-Home Care

Arranging private in-home care, rather than government subsidised in-home care, is the fastest way of putting in place care visits.

Depending on whether your loved one is located in a regional or capital city, the in-home care provider may charge private care fees of between \$50 (regional) to \$110 (capital and major cities) per visit.

In the COVID-19 environment, the level of service given for that fee may vary. Due to now stretched resources, the fee may deliver essential services only, such as: showering, a meal on the table, medication checks, unaccompanied shopping, and the domestic cleaning of bathroom and kitchen areas.

## 2 Register for Government Subsidised In-Home Care

Start the process of seeking government subsidised in-home care through the Federal Government's My Aged Care service but be prepared for a lengthy process of at least six weeks.

Assessments under the Federal Government's Commonwealth Home Support

Program may now occur more quickly as they move from face-to-face to over the phone assessments. However, once assessed, your requested subsidised care service may sit on a long waitlist.

To cover the care of your loved in the interim, my advice is to pay the private fees of a reputable in-home care provider.

## 3 Call on the Neighbours

If the private fees are too high, then consider calling your loved one's neighbours for assistance. Make sure the neighbours are fit and able, under 70 years of age, and do their best to follow the Federal Government's hygiene protocols.

## 4 Call on DR Care Solutions for Personal Guidance & Immediate Action

Navigating My Aged Care, finding a reputable care service provider, and pursuing subsidised care is challenging at the best of times but even more so in the COVID-19 environment. We will conduct an assessment of your loved one remotely by telephone interview. If you are the primary care giver, you will be invited to participate in the call.

**Start the process of seeking government subsidised in-home care through My Aged Care**

