

# Newsletter

JUNE 2021 • 49TH EDITION



## WINTER BLESSINGS

to everyone in the  
Bethany Christian Care family



# From the CEO

## ROYAL COMMISSION RESPONSE

In late February I wrote to the Bethany Christian Care family about the release of the final report of the Aged Care Royal Commission, which made 148 recommendations.

In May 2021 the Australian Government provided its response to each of the recommendations. The Australian Government's response provides some short-term partial relief for some of the major pressures facing the aged care sector. For the longer term, the Australian Government's response has kicked-off a three-year process that aims to deliver wider and deeper structural reform of the sector.

While many of the details of the Government's policies are still to be worked out, Bethany Christian Care will always seek to continuously improve the care and services we provide our residents.

## Euthanasia

The Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021 ("Bill") was introduced into Queensland Parliament on 25 May 2021, and is expected to go to a vote in September 2021, following consultation. If the Bill is passed, euthanasia is expected to become legal in Queensland in 2023.

As drafted, the Bill would allow someone who has decision-making capability, and who has been diagnosed with a disease, illness or medical condition which is

- advanced, progressive and will cause death within 12 months, and
- causing suffering that the person considers to be intolerable,

to voluntarily request to self-administer, or have a doctor or nurse administer, a substance prescribed by a doctor to hasten their death. There are a number of steps and "safeguards" built into the Bill.

The Bill should not be a surprise, as we live in a post-Christian culture that prizes autonomy, feelings and expressive individualism. Modern politics in Queensland is a reflection of this, and I expect that the Bill will be passed into law with little or no change.

My purpose in bringing this matter to your attention is not to try to persuade you one way or another about euthanasia, but rather to let you know where Bethany Christian Care stands on this issue and the Bill.

Our Purpose (why we exist), is *"To serve and honour the Lord Jesus Christ by serving older people."* Our Mission (what we do to fulfil our Purpose) is *"By God's grace, to provide loving, person-centred, non-discriminatory, excellent Christian care covering the full spectrum of older people's accommodation and care needs."*

Euthanasia is the antithesis of our Purpose



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and Mission. It does not honour our Lord Jesus Christ. Euthanasia is not excellent aged care. It is not serving our residents. It is contrary to our Christian understanding of human life, suffering and death. Euthanasia is not compatible with our Christian faith because:

- It leaves no place for God's grace.
- It negates the sacredness of human life, which is made in the image of God.
- It assumes that suffering can have no purpose, meaning or dignity.
- It puts humans in the position of God.

For these reasons Bethany Christian Care is against euthanasia and the Bill. We are unwilling to support, assist or participate in euthanasia at any of our facilities.

We are for helping our residents to live abundant lives. Our residents can expect that they:

- Will be loved and supported through suffering and the dying process.
- Will be provided with palliative care, including pain relief, when appropriate.
- Will not be pressured in any way to end their lives.
- Can receive pastoral care and prayer if they want it.

I note that the Bill allows individual health practitioners to conscientiously object to being involved in the euthanasia process, but it does not allow for institutional conscientious objection. For example, even if an institution like an aged care provider conscientiously objects to euthanasia, the institution is still required to allow outside individuals to come in to its premises to perform euthanasia in the premises for people who reside there. This is clearly problematic for the many organisations like Bethany Christian Care that are against euthanasia.

Overseas jurisdictions demonstrate that while initially legalised only for the terminally ill, over time euthanasia eligibility criteria expand as it becomes socially acceptable and normalised. Sadly, we can expect that the Bill is only the beginning and will not be the end of this matter in Queensland, to the great harm of our most vulnerable citizens.

My prayer is that all suffering Queenslanders will find God's grace, and the help and support they need, rather than turning to euthanasia.

Warm regards,

Rohan Reid  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

## COVID Vaccination Update

I am sure that you heard about the vaccine roll-out delays, including those being experienced by aged care workers. Despite this, over 75 of our staff have received either their first and or second COVID vaccinations. In September it will be compulsory for all aged care workers to be vaccinated. In case you are wondering, yes, the Executive Leadership Team and Care Managers have all been vaccinated. Recent changes to vaccine availability and access to vaccination clinics made this a little easier.

All our aged care residents who have wanted to be vaccinated have received their two doses.





## Meet Agnes Biju

**You have a unique role within Bethany Christian Care. Can you tell us a bit about it?**

My role is ACFI Coordinator. This role is to ensure our residents receive the right level of funding for their care and support needs. I work co-operatively with our teams to undertake assessments and gather detailed information on residents.

The most rewarding part of my job is to identify the core needs of our residents and ensure they receive the right level of care. I enjoy being with the residents, talking to them and knowing more about them so that I can discover ways of improving and optimising their care. I read the bible and pray with them, if they wish to, as well.

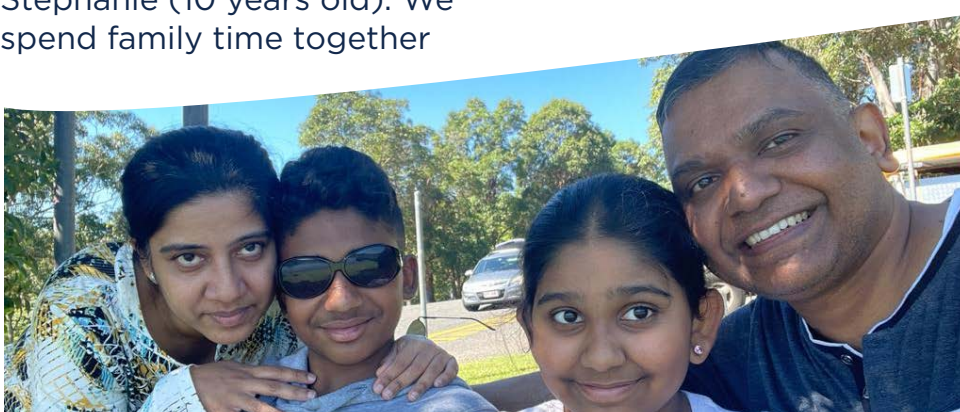
**Can you tell us a bit about you and your family? What do you like to do for fun?**

I am a Registered Nurse from India. I worked in Ireland for about 4 years and moved to Brisbane in 2011. I am married to my husband Biju John and have two children, Steve (15 years old) and Stephanie (10 years old). We spend family time together

mostly in studying the Bible and praying because we can never stop praising God for His Son Jesus.

**How did you come to know Jesus?**

I came to know Jesus about 8 years ago. I was born and brought up in a nominal Christian family. I followed my religious prayer and rites daily. But one time in my life, God touched my heart when I was going through many struggles in my life and made me born again. I had a knowledge of Jesus since childhood, but never truly knew Him in my heart until 8 years ago. Ezekiel 36:26 became real : *"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you: I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh"*. He gave me an abundant life and spiritual riches in Christ. Then I realised that *"But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss and rubbish for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ"*. After this, my whole family, including my mother and brother's family became born again from God and gave their life to Jesus and were baptised together.



## Babies of Bethany

We are excited to introduce a new baby to the Bethany family!



Micah Joel Thompson

Son of Chaplain, Samuel Thompson.

**GIVE GOD  
ALL OF YOUR  
WORRIES  
ALL OF YOUR  
STRESS  
ALL OF YOUR  
PAIN  
ALL OF YOUR  
ANXIETY  
HE CAN HANDLE  
THEM ALL**

1 Peter 5:7



## Highlights from the Lifestyle Supervisors



### BETH EDEN

The residents at Beth Eden have had lots of fun in the last few months! We had a State of Origin day, complete with pies & maroon/ blue cupcakes; over Easter we hatched baby chicks that represented new life; we adopted 3 hens and have loved watching them grow; residents were treated to a vintage fashion show; we had a Pipe Band for our Scottish day celebrating the heritage of one of our residents; and we now have 3 puppies that come to visit us: Kimba, Charlie and Steesie.



### JANOAH GARDENS

It has been a busy few months here at Janoah! We made mother's day brooches for ourselves or as gifts; we visited Butterfly Kindergarten to see old and new friends; our gardening club continued to beautify the balcony and courtyard; Rocky our pet therapy dog made another visit; we got busy bringing the sunshine in with our winter art; Cultural experiences including a personal account of life in Canada, accompanied by pancakes topped with crispy bacon and maple syrup! And we embraced Scottish culture with a visit from the Wynnum RSL pipe band and celtic dancers.



### THE PLAINS

A lot has been happening at The Plains! We celebrated World Day for Cultural Diversity, with staff and residents encouraged to wear or bring something to show from their culture. We celebrated Italian Day, with our lovely residents Rosa & Franco. We've had a farm visit, virtual reality, fashion show, Bible discussion group & McDonald's lunch. Coffee club is back in action with lots of coffee deliveries occurring fortnightly. We celebrated Mother's Day with a flower and lovely quote. Devotions and Bible Study/Hymn singing are always popular choices run by Sam & Claudia. We've added a beautiful herb garden and rocking chair to Esda. New smart TV's have gone up in all the lounges and seem to be a hit with the residents being able to easily tailor viewing to their interests.



## Long serving staff

Big 'congratulations' to the following staff who have attained years-of-service milestones:

### 15 - 20 YEARS

Sonia Luther  
(Lifestyle Assistant, The Plains)

Tina Smith  
(Domestic Services Assistant, The Plains)

### 5 - 10 YEARS

Sharon McGoldrick  
(Admissions Specialist, Bethany Christian Care)

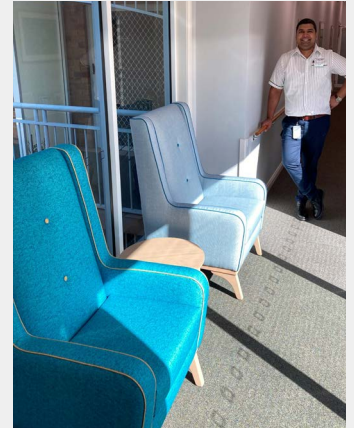
Connie Harding  
(Administrative Assistant, The Plains)



CEO, Rohan Reid with Long Serving Staff  
Connie Harding and Sharon McGoldrick.

## New furniture at Janoah Gardens

We have recently installed new furniture in the lounge areas and entrances at Janoah Gardens aged care. Our residents have commented about how much they are enjoying their refreshed lounge areas.



## Staff Movements

Sharon McGoldrick has been appointed to a newly created role, Admissions Specialist. The Admissions Specialist works across our three sites, and is responsible for liaising with prospective residents, conducting tours, and assisting residents and their families in their journey into aged care. Sharon had previously worked as an Administrative Assistant at both Janoah Gardens and Beth Eden.



Sharon McGoldrick

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

Romans 8:28



## From the Board Table

### PLANNING FOR CHANGE

The Australian Government has provided its responses to the Aged Care Royal Commission's recommendations. Many of the responses are high level and the details are still to be worked out. In the meantime, the Board is committed to continuous improvement in the care and services we provide our residents.

There will undoubtedly be changes in the aged care and retirement sector as a result of new Government policies, as well as demographic, technology and market driven changes. As a Board we acknowledge that our sector is in a state of flux and ambiguity. The way Bethany Christian Care looks today is different than it looked five years ago, and the Board expects it will look different again five years from now.

With the help of the CEO and the Executive Leadership Team, the Board continues to monitor the sector and plan for the future. We have recently had a very fruitful all-day strategy workshop

where we had quality time to think together about what we want Bethany Christian Care's future to look like and how to achieve it.

The Board believes that Bethany Christian Care's Purpose, Mission and VALUES are evergreen, and they will continue to underpin and guide our organisational strategy. As we plan for the future, we are determined to maintain our distinctive Christian ethos – our "software". Also, we want to continue to enhance our facilities – our "hardware" – for the benefit of our residents. As an example of this, residents at Janoah Gardens have been consulted this year about proposed renovations to the common areas of that village.

As the we look back on God's provision for Bethany Christian Care over the past 72 years the Board is encouraged, and asks that He will grant us His wisdom for today and tomorrow.

Ross McCorkell  
Chairman





## Reflection by Michael Harding, People Manager

If the last year has taught us anything, it is I believe, that nothing in life is certain and to expect the unexpected.

I am sure that prior to 2020 none of us had heard the expression, “flattening the curve,” or knew what a virus reproduction rate was. Likewise, we had not experienced border closures, whole city lockdowns or widespread aged care visitor restrictions.

For many, the last 18 months or so have been very challenging, financially, physically, as well as to our mental health and well-being. Of course, we are not the first generation to live through a global pandemic and some of us may remember relatives or family members describing what it was like to live through influenza or polio epidemics of the past. My family tell me that when the polio vaccine (syrup) was given out that I wanted to line up again, because it tasted really sweet.

I remember in 2017, visiting Venice and sailing past Poveglia, the quarantine island and hospital, thinking just how old fashioned the idea of a dedicated

quarantine centre was. How things have changed since then.

The one constant though, through all of the change and uncertainty, is God and His promises. The bible describes the unchanging nature of God and His promises in many ways, including as a rock, a firm foundation, and an anchor for the soul. But perhaps my favourite is found in Hebrews 8, where Jesus is described as “*the same yesterday and today and forever.*”

This means that as we put our faith and trust in Jesus, we need not fear anything from our past, present or future. In a time of great uncertainty, the nature and promises of God are the one and only true constant. Have you put your faith and trust in the one who is unchanging? Why not?

*“But I know Whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able, to keep that which I’ve committed unto Him against that day.” – Daniel Whittle.*



Do you have a contribution for our Bethany Newsletter?

Let us know by sending in the details to: [bethany@bethanycc.org.au](mailto:bethany@bethanycc.org.au)