

COMMUNITY UPDATE

December 1, 2022

WWW.MTHCS.COM.AU



Pictured above: N95 masks are an effective tool to limit transmission of COVID-19.

Vigilance needed to fight COVID

We're certainly receiving the clear message that, again, our Mallee communities will not be isolated from the rising COVID-19 infection numbers across the State.

COVID-19 is circulating in our Mallee communities - with the number of reported cases up by 67 per cent - and all of us have a critical role to play in increasing our vigilance and attention to COVID-safe practices. They have kept us safe previously, and it will be our actions every day that keep ourselves and others safe this time.

As of last week, all staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors need to wear an N95 mask while on site at MTHCS. There are very few exemptions - outdoor staff (while outdoors) and kitchen staff (while in the kitchen) are the notable exceptions. The only other reason not to wear an N95 is if you have a medical exemption and if you do, please ensure this is provided. If you need to remove your mask to eat, please ensure you practice social distancing.

Also, we are again urging people who work at or visit our facilities to take precautions when in the community. One way to minimise your risk of catching COVID is to wear a mask when indoors at places such as the supermarket.

JOIN OUR NEWLY ESTABLISHED CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE AS A CONSUMER ADVISOR

Local community members have an exciting opportunity to provide strategic advice from a consumer, carer and community perspective to ensure MTHCS understands and can respond to the needs of communities.

Positions on the MTHCS Community Advisory Committee are voluntary and terms of office start in 2023.

For all enquiries regarding the Community Advisory Committee, please contact Tracey Wilson, Interim CEO, on (03) 5092 1111.

Applications close December 16th 2022.

VISIT WWW.MTHCS.COM.AU/CAREERS/CURRENT-VACANCIES FOR MORE INFORMATION OR FOR THE TERMS OF REFERENCE.

Generosity in difficult times

Of course, our latest concerns about COVID-19 come as many of communities continue to live with the effects of rain, hail and flooding.

This has been a difficult period for many people in the community, with homes, farms and livelihoods all affected.

These events are frustrating for all of us and extremely stressful for some of us, depending on our circumstances. Please think about this if someone is not as easy-going and efficient as they usually are. Be kind.

Celebrating our volunteers

More than 120 volunteers are involved every day in community services across the Mallee Track, from Meals on Wheels, driving support and friendly visiting to gardening and even computer support.

Volunteers all over the world are celebrated on International Volunteers' Day on December 5 and at MTHCS we're joining the global focus. It's an opportunity to highlight the wonderful kindness of our volunteers who devote their time and care to their communities.



As well as providing important support to local residents who need a little extra support to live independently, our volunteers can also help residents maintain social connections.

If you can spare some time each week and think you might like to become a community volunteer, our Volunteer Coordinator Pennie would love to chat to you. Spend as little or as much time as you like. We can even match you to your area of interest.



Pictured above: Volunteers make an enormous contribution to our organisation.

Christmas is in the air

Our communities are counting down to the festive season. We continue to be amazed by the imaginative ideas our Sea Lake crew keep coming up with!



Pictured above: Pat's wall tree is one of the great items produced by our Sea Lake residents.