Onward & Outward

How about an Easter Quiz!

1. What colour of eggs doesn’t “Sam I am” like in the Dr. Seuss book?
2. In the song, “Here Comes Peter Cottontail” he’s got coloured eggs for who?
3. What is the name of the dance that is commonly done at Easter time?
4. Who co-starred with Judy Garland in “Easter Parade”?
5. Highly intricate decorated Easter eggs done with wax and dye are known as what?
6. The most expensive jewelled eggs in the world today and dye are known as what?
7. What kind of tail is the Easter bunny assumed to have?
8. In the song “Easter Parade” what street do they walk down?
9. What is the traditional Easter flower?
10. Which came first… the chicken or the egg?


Onward & Outward

Get to know your care coordinators

How can we help you today?

Getting to know your care coordinators

Onward & Outward

Aged Care is an ever-changing, dynamic and exciting industry to be involved in

The Australian population is much older than it has been in the past, and we are living longer and healthier lives than ever. This is a very positive thing, but presents its own challenges going forward, which McLean Care is well placed to meet.

From the 27th of February, government changes to Home Care Packages will give people greater choice and flexibility about their chosen service provider. McLean Care is well placed to manage these changes, and ready to help our current and future clients to navigate the new system.

Recently, we were very excited to announce that the Constitution of a newly formed regional aged care alliance, NIACC, was adopted by several aged care service providers including McLean Care, creating a shared services organisational model that will ensure the sustainability of aged care providers in the New England, North West and Upper Hunter regions.

In another exciting move for both McLean Care and aged care in regional Australia, McLean Care was announced as the successful tenderer for the acquisition of CWA House, a small rural community-based not-for-profit nursing home in Oakey QLD, ensuring the sustainability of aged care services in the Darling Downs region. Although the decision made to sell CWA House had not been an easy one for QCWA to make, they are very pleased that a community-based organisation with McLean Care’s experience, commitment to the local community, and whose values are closely aligned with the QCWA, was successful.

Aged Care is an ever-changing, dynamic and exciting industry to be involved in, and we believe that we are equipped with the best possible expertise, people, model of care and direction for the future.

From the 27th of February 2017, packages will be assigned to an individual person, not an approved organisation. As the funding will be linked to a person and not an organisation, it will be easier for people to change approved organisations if they wish. This also means that if people are relocating to another town or city, they only need to find a new approved organisation to provide their home care service, rather than go onto a new approved organisation. McLean Care is well placed to manage these changes, and ready to help our current and future clients to navigate the new system.

If you’re currently allocated a Home Care Package, and you’re happy with the organisation providing the services you receive, then nothing will change. You will continue to receive your care services as normal. But, if you’re new to the program, currently receive interim-care because services at the approved level were not available, or if you have been approved for a Home Care Package, but have not yet started receiving care, then these changes will affect you.

This year will see major changes to the Government-funded Home Care program, which will mean people who wish to stay in their own home, as they get older, will have greater choice and flexibility in the way they receive the care and services provided to them at home.

New regional aged care alliance will influence the future of aged care in the region.

Getting to know your care coordinators
Aged care cover story cont.: However, if people do decide to change approved organisations after February 27, the organisation who previously was providing services will be allowed to charge an exit fee (if they choose to do so) to cover any administrative costs.

Access to Home Care Packages will also be managed in a new way; there will be a national pool of all available packages. After assessment, the eligible person will be placed in a ‘queue’ until a Home Care Package becomes available. A person’s place in the queue will be determined by their personal needs and circumstances, and the time they have been waiting for care. It is really important for people who have a current assessment for a Home Care Package, and are still deciding if they want to accept services, to give serious consideration to putting in place those services now, prior to February 27th, to ensure their place within the new system as quickly as possible.

These government reforms will not affect the levels of care and types of services. Rather, people will have more choice within the existing levels of Home Care Packages, of which there are four, with the hours of care provided under Home Care Package Level 1.

4, and the least under Home Care Package Level 27, the organisation who previously was approved organisations after February 27, the organisation who previously was providing services will be allowed to charge an exit fee (if they choose to do so) to cover any administrative costs.

Ongoing reforms of aged care have presented many challenges for smaller rural and remote aged care providers, in viability and sustainability, as well as the fundamental issues of service delivery. The local people we employ, to our participation in community activities, with groups, and local authorities and businesses, and have developed partnerships and alliances in our local region that enhance our capability to provide the best support and care available.

We are looking forward to working very closely with the CWA House Management Committee, the remarkable staff at CWA House, and the broader Oakley community in this new, exciting venture. The newly formed NIACC alliance represents a shared services organisational model, best equipped to create efficiency and sustainability, well into the future. For the members of NIACC, their community connections will not change – they will maintain their autonomy, their identity, and their connection to their local communities, but now they will have the voice and access to the resources they have needed, with which to deliver even better services to their communities, and raise the bar in care provision in their areas.

It’s a win-win all round.

New alliance will influence the future of aged care in the region

After a lengthy consultation process, community-owned and operated aged care providers in the New England, North West and Upper Hunter Regions adopted the Constitution of a newly formed regional aged care alliance – NIACC – on the 19th of January 2017. This new alliance will positively influence the future of community-owned not-for-profit services in regional, rural and remote communities.

As community-owned and operated organisations in regional Australia, we are always looking for better ways to deliver quality services, in the most efficient and effective ways, that keep people and communities at the centre of our endeavours.

Smaller providers in the region are often faced with the frustration of battling their way through policy and legislation, that can impede the delivery of the provision of care, and the new alliance will mean that member providers will have access to the support of like-minded, passionate, and highly knowledgeable people when they need it most, and share some of the administrative burdens, without losing their local identity. NIACC members will have greater access to resources, a bigger voice in the sector, the ability to share ideas and resources, and access to the benefits of the ‘tried and tested’. They will also benefit from a greater buying power, but most importantly, it will keep them viable, and give them a sustainable future in their own local communities, and give them a stronger presence, opening up many more opportunities for their organisations, and strengthening their ability to serve their seniors.

The newly formed NIACC alliance is made up of organisations who share a common cause, and will give regional, rural and remote community-owned and operated aged care providers the economies of scale that a large corporate organisation enjoys, whilst maintaining their autonomy and unique local identity. The founding members include Bingara’s Touriandi Lodge, Coonamble Hostel Association, Mackellar Care of Gunnedah, McLean Care of Inverell, Merton Living in Denman and Moree’s Fairview Retirement Village.

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McLean Care to enter the Darling Downs Region

McLean Care is very pleased to announce our successful tender for the purchase of CWA House in Oakey from the Queensland Country Women’s Association (QCWA), securing the future of high quality aged care services to the Darling Downs region.

McLean Care is as absolutely committed to the longevity of rural aged care services to the Darling Downs as we are to the New England, North West and Upper Hunter regions of NSW. We will leverage the resources and expertise that we have built over more than 50 years, to ensure that this community-based not-for-profit provider remains viable in their own community.

McLean Care established its aged care facilities and services back in the 1950’s. Since then, it has remained our mission to provide the highest quality retirement and aged care lifestyle service and options to the people of our region, and we have grown to now provide care and services to over 1,000 people, in an area of over 105,000 square kilometres.

Our depth of expertise, and commitment to creating local, community-based solutions for an ageing rural population made us the perfect fit for QCWA and the CWA House Management Committee. We proudly remain a community-owned, not-for-profit organisation, are very active in our communities, from the best of my life