

**KORONGEE VILLAGE OPENING SPEECH BY  
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GLENVIEW COMMUNITY SERVICES KORONGEE VILLAGE 14 July 2020**

Good afternoon and thank you for inviting me to officially open the Glenview Community Services Korongee Village, Australia's first purpose-built village for those living with dementia.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community, who have survived invasion and dispossession, and continue to maintain their identity, culture and Indigenous rights.

May I acknowledge amongst you

- The Hon Jeremy Rockliff, Acting Premier
- Members of State Parliament
- The Minister for Aged Care, Richard Colbeck
- Bishop Condie
- The Mayor of Glenorchy, Kristie Johnson
- Glenview Board Members and staff.

Dick and I visited Glenview last April, as part of our municipal visit to the City of Glenorchy, and we were both struck then by the enthusiasm and passion of CEO Lucy O'Flaherty as she outlined for us the expectations of this project.

Prevalence dementia data for 2020 tells us that there are almost half a million people in Australia living with dementia and that without a major medical breakthrough this is projected to more than double by the year 2058. While hard work is being done by our medical scientists to develop a vaccine for Alzheimer's disease and the results of gene therapy trials are encouraging in terms of slowing the progression of dementia, we need to be exploring improved ways of caring for people with dementia as well as researching drug therapies.

Covid-19 is a big wake-up call in this respect. Despite the wonders of medical science and its success in preventing, treating and curing many diseases, drug therapies don't always provide a solution – at least not immediately and we need to ensure that we are not excessively reliant on drug therapies to deal with pandemics and epidemics – including the dementia epidemic.

The Interim Report of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety explains that in many instances chemical and physical restraints are used as a first line response to manage behaviours that are challenging for staff and others in residential aged care, contrary to available guidance and evidence. At an aged care facility on the Gold Coast it was reported to the Commission that 71% of its care recipients received psychotropic medication. The widespread use of medications is despite that it is evidence shows that 'restrictive practices' have questionable success in managing challenging behaviours.<sup>1</sup> The Commission noted that evidence has demonstrated the importance of good design as an element in avoiding the need for chemical and physical restraint.<sup>2</sup>

This is what is so exciting about Korongee Village. It recognises that there is much scope for improving the quality of life for people with dementia through managing symptoms and providing a supportive environment informed by the best research and evidence we have in relation to this. So thank you Professor James Vickers and to Glenview for collaborating together to ensure that what is known about dementia care is incorporated into the design and care program for the residents here.

I am so pleased to be here today. While I have managed to be fully occupied for the last months through all stages of the lockdown, outside contacts have been virtual except for our delivery of flowers from the Government House Gardens and biscuits from the kitchen to nursing homes throughout the State. This is our first outside engagement and Dick and I look forward to being shown around this magnificent facility today and meeting some of the dedicated staff working in this very special area of aged care.

I now declare open Glenview Community Services Korongee Village.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, Interim Report: Neglect, October 2019, Volume 1, 193.

<sup>2</sup> Royal Commission, n 1, 214-215.