

Wednesday 18 August 2021

MEDIA STATEMENT

COVID-19 and Samaritans Supporting Independent Living (SIL) disability homes

In response to the HNE Health Media Statement dated 18.8.21, Samaritans can confirm we had a disability staff member test positive to Covid-19 on 8 August 2021. NSW Health confirmed to us at this time that the worker had been infectious while on shift at two Samaritans Supported Independent Living (SIL) homes in Newcastle.

Once notified, Samaritans immediately initiated its pandemic response plan, with residents and staff contacts undergoing testing and isolation, and both homes going into a period of precautionary isolation.

Samaritans prioritised communication with impacted residents, their families and staff, and offered support as needed.

Samaritans is happy to report today that no positive cases of COVID-19 have come from this early August exposure amongst our residents and staff, with both homes coming out of their isolation period as of this evening (18 August).

Samaritans would like to thank our staff for their hard work and commitment to safety during this time.

-ENDS-

Media phone: 0438 475 772