

26 November 2020

The Hon Mick Murray MLA  
Minister for Senior and Ageing  
Level 7  
Dumas House  
2 Havelock Street  
WEST PERTH WA 6005

***By email: [minister.murray@dpc.wa.gov](mailto:minister.murray@dpc.wa.gov)***

Dear Minister Murray

Thank you for the guidance regarding allied health services during the difficult time of COVID-19. During this time, the Government have advised that the following allied health services may be provided:

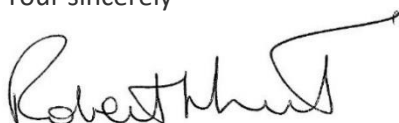
- allied health services provided by allied health professionals working as essential workers in hospitals providing critical clinical care or as directed by the hospital.
- allied health services provided by allied health professionals working in private practice providing care through telehealth and other virtual care options.
- students, medical/nursing/midwifery/allied health on placement providing essential care in hospitals or through telehealth.
- allied health professionals providing mental health services in community settings by telehealth or by face-to-face (but only in the instance of emergency clinical care for potentially life-threatening situations where telehealth is not clinically appropriate).

This is wonderful and allows people to continue to receive essential allied health services in many cases, however this does not currently include aged care homes. We are requesting that dietetic services in aged care homes be added to this above essential list, even if via telehealth.

It is essential that our aged care residents achieve food and fluid safely and that meets their individual nutritional needs. I refer you to our recent media release, '[Do not forget food: the essential ingredient in health and wellbeing of older Australians](#)' which highlights the role Accredited Practising Dietitians play not only on an individual level with residents but also through the whole food service system of the aged care facility'.

We would be more than happy to discuss this further with you.

Your sincerely



Robert Hunt  
Chief Executive Officer