



Presbyterian Church of Queensland

State Moderator

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Date: 9 October 2020

To: Ministers, Sessions, Presbyteries, Congregations, Boards and Committees of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland

Re: PresCare Update

You may be aware that the Presbyterian Church of Queensland has previously announced its intention to withdraw from providing residential aged care and offer its PresCare facilities for sale. These matters are having significant ongoing impacts on the life and ministry of our denomination, and we are seeking to manage these impacts in a manner that is in the best interests of the ministries of our congregations. In all this, the PCQ Trustees (Phil Strong, Stuart Hoadley and Paul Cotton), the new Commission of Assembly and the PresCare CEO (Wayne Knapp) are very conscious of the prayerful support and encouragement of the Ministers, Elders, and members of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland. These are days in which we remember that our Lord Jesus said, *“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”* (Matthew 10:29-30)

Please continue to pray for all who are involved in these matters, as we are entering a further challenging phase with multiple possible outcomes. Nevertheless, all parties have been working collaboratively and productively. I can report that the majority of the Credere entities have been sold.

I can also report that the following assets owned by the PCQ Assembly have been sold or are under contract; the two Pearsby properties, Camp Tamborine, and Camp Bunya.

I can now also confirm that as part of the sale process an agreement has been entered into to sell the property on which the PresCare Lake Sherrin Independent Living Units and Residential Aged Care Facility are located. The decision to sell Lake Sherrin has not been made lightly. This decision is based on the funding requirements of aged care, PresCare’s relative lack of scale and size, and the age of the main Lake Sherrin building.

Pleasingly, the [105] Independent Living Units on site will continue to be tenanted and operate as usual both up to and following settlement. Under the sale agreement, the Lake Sherrin Residential Aged Care Facility will cease to operate on 17 November 2020 and be vacated by then.

PresCare is currently working with residents of the Lake Sherrin Residential Aged Care Facility and their families to relocate them to alternative accommodation nearby that is both affordable and meets their long-term care needs.

PresCare is able to relocate Lake Sherrin residents to PresCare Vela in Carina. Vela shares the same Management team as Lake Sherrin and offers the same high standard of care and services as Lake Sherrin; indeed, as a newer facility, Vela is arguably a superior option for residents. PresCare has given an undertaking to Lake Sherrin residents that their accommodation charges will remain unchanged if they choose to move to Vela.

The purchaser intends to continue operating the Independent Living Units at Lake Sherrin and these residents are unaffected by the sale.

Please be assured PresCare will be consulting closely with residents and their families throughout the relocation period, and extend whatever assistance is required to ensure the transition to new accommodation is as seamless as possible.

PresCare is also working closely with employees at Lake Sherrin and their union representatives to consult fully and make available employee counselling and outplacement assistance. Where possible, PresCare will facilitate redeployment of Lake Sherrin personnel. Otherwise, all statutory entitlements will be paid to employees whose employment does not continue.

Please be prayerful for the residents, staff, and families affected by these changes at Lake Sherrin.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Strong', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rev Dr Phil Strong
Moderator
Presbyterian Church of Queensland