



30 September 2020

The Hon Stephen Wade MLC
Minister for Health and Wellbeing
GPO Box 2555
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Minister

I am writing to you following advice that two Eyre Peninsula aged care facilities co-located with local hospitals do not provide internet access to their residents. The aged care facilities are Uringa Hostel in Tumby Bay with 10 places and Miroma Place Hostel in Cummins with 14 places. I have not inquired of other small rural facilities attached to local hospitals but I do wonder whether a similar situation exists in places such as Kimba and Peterborough.

As part of managing through the COVID-19 pandemic aged care residents are encouraged to use virtual means to connect with family members. Visits by family and friends to aged care in South Australia continue to be limited through the Emergency Management (Residential Aged Care Facilities No 8) (COVID-19) Direction 2020 and by border closures. It is more important than ever that internet access is available. Beyond this, we understand that residents would like to have internet to access community services, health seminars and for entertainment.

The two services are operated through the Eyre and Far North Local Health Network and we understand that access is not available apparently because of "security risk and cost". Recently a volunteer attending one of the services used her own device and data to show a Parkinson's health seminar.

Surely in 2020 and in light of COVID-19 restrictions, an unlimited NBN broadband service (like most other local organisations have and pay about \$80 a month for) is both essential equipment and a basic entitlement.

I look forward to hearing what the barrier to offering this service is and to a quick solution.

Yours sincerely

Jane Mussared
Chief Executive

cc Ms Verity Paterson, CEO, Eyre and Far North LHN