

MEDIA RELEASE

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BRINGING SMILES TO THE FACES OF OUR OLDER RESIDENTS

Kind-hearted children are writing letters and creating art pieces to give to older residents in aged care facilities to boost social connections during the coronavirus pandemic.

The 'Sunshine Project', initiated by the Glenelg Collaborative COVID Communications group is bringing plenty of smiles and responses to those residents in aged care facilities who have little to no family visiting.

The letters and artwork have been delivered throughout June to places such as Harbourside Lodge, Seaview House, and Heywood Rural Health Aged Care, as well as to Winda Mara clients.

Local primary schools have been highly engaged with the project, encouraging students to write letters and create artwork pieces for the project. The schools involved include Narrawong Primary School, Portland South Primary School, Bundarra Primary School, and All Saints Primary School.

United Way Glenelg executive officer, Nicole Carr, said social isolation has affected most of the community, however, residents of aged care facilities are feeling the consequences more than most.

'Residents in aged care facilities are already isolated to a certain extent. This has been amplified further with the total lockdown of some facilities.

"Residents are enjoying the letters and artwork. We've received some lovely letters of thanks that we have passed onto the primary schools," concluded Ms Carr.

One of these is from Mike Barratt, a resident of Seaview House.

'May I say a big thank you for your lovely cards, letters, and drawings. It was very kind and thoughtful of you all,' Mr Barratt wrote, on behalf of all the residents who received a special delivery.

Artworks and letters, from any interested community member, are being collected from the various drop off points throughout Glenelg Shire until June 30th. These include Woolworths Portland, Narrawong Post Office, Winda Mara Heywood, and Foodworks Casterton.

Photo: Bonnie Blackburn and Marj Brain are thrilled to read the letters and artwork from the children.

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