



## MEDIA RELEASE

[www.aboriginalccsa.org.au](http://www.aboriginalccsa.org.au)

Due to the manner in which our organisation has recently been the subject of an intentional ambush we feel that a formal response is required out of respect for the integrity of our Elders. In doing so we will not be discussing confidential information regarding our Indigenous Elders as to do so would be unlawful and distasteful.

Our organisation does not engage in sensational hyperbole and therefore we will only provide a brief summary of permitted facts and a response to some unsubstantiated allegations.

It is unfortunate that our organisation is the current target of what we see as hateful and purposeless behaviour. We understand that we are only one of numerous aged care providers that will be targeted in this current unsophisticated campaign of mischiefousness. We are told that all organisations in Australia that care for Indigenous Elders will be similarly targeted in the near future by the same mischiefousness.

Liz from the Advertiser contacted our organisation on Monday of this week for a comment in response to the continuing unfounded allegations made by Mr Paul Norvill. The "Advertiser story" was due for print on Tuesday. We enquired of Liz as to what she thought the story was and it appeared from her answer that she was looking to plump out a story that she had been instructed to write.

As a matter of courtesy we informed Liz that it would be prudent for her to reevaluate whether or not she had a story AFTER any allegations were substantiated (which we were certain would be none). It seemed senseless to us that Liz would prepare a story before that time especially considering the allegations concerned the Indigenous community. Adverse media and political attention exhaust our community.

The Aged Care Quality Agency is our federal government accreditation agency. In our discussions with the agency we formulated an appropriate response to Norvill's allegations that would include a quality audit (not an "investigation") of our premises. The audit was undertaken on Monday and as we expected, the Elders Village continues to meet ALL accreditation standards.

When the story did not appear in the Advertiser on Tuesday we assumed the newspaper recognised the lack of verification associated with the story or that perhaps research was being undertaken or maybe an assessment as to why the allegations were being made in the first place. We were disappointed.

### Home Care

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### Elders Village

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Based on formal documented evidence we can say that there have been NO identified cases of scabies at our Elders Village. We can further say that we have NOT received any medical reports to say that a case of scabies is present at the Elders Village.

In the Advertiser's publications today, the paper refers to a "Specialist" that has allegedly diagnosed a case of scabies. We are unsure as to whom the Advertiser is referring to: perhaps a GP with an interest in Aesthetic Medicine, but we are unsure.

The Advertiser has published a picture of an elderly woman without her consent and without any documented evidence to support their statement that the picture identifies a case of scabies. The story is scandalous, immoral and unprincipled.

This story is not about our standard of care at the Elders Village. Our federal government regulators have assessed our establishment as meeting stringent standards of care and accreditation. Our committed and diligent nursing staff at the Elders Village continue to follow the treatment instructions that are provided by the independent medical professionals that are appointed by our clients and/or the family of our clients.

We apologise to our community and our Elders for this unsavory episode and we are hopeful that it will pass without any further disturbance.

Please contact an aged-care advocate if you have a concern for an elderly family member in care.

Graham Aitken

Chief Executive Officer

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