

Media Release
3 August 2021

SydWest Multicultural Services says #ThanksforCaring to staff

SydWest Multicultural Services this week is celebrating its staff for their extraordinary dedication and service to aged care clients over the past year during the COVID pandemic.

With **Aged Care Employee Day** celebrated at the end of this week, on Saturday 7 August, SydWest CEO Elfa Moraitakis is asking the community to take a moment to reflect on the critical role aged care workers play in keeping our seniors safe and well.

This year's theme is #ThanksforCaring.

"In a typical year, SydWest staff would provide more than 110,000 hours of service, running over 360 activities, workshops and outings for around 500 seniors from up to 17 different language backgrounds", Ms Moraitakis said.

"In addition to our in-home services our activities range from gentle exercise and stretching, to art activities, teaching English and more recently, training in how to use digital technology to stay connected.

"Like many other services and workplaces, SydWest staff have had to re-organise all activities from face-to-face to online – no easy feat when many of their older clients lacked basic digital skills.

"However, due to the persistence of our wonderful staff and volunteers, we can now proudly say that we've been able to make great headway teaching our seniors how to connect online," she said.

"This enables us to keep our seniors well informed in their own language, in this evolving COVID crisis."

We take great care to understand the individual needs of our seniors so they can be supported to live at home with dignity, confidence and independence. Some of our seniors living alone and receiving care, means that the only social interaction they have is that with our aged care staff.

Ms Moraitakis said that given the current situation in Western Sydney, our frontline workers have once again been under extreme pressure, fear of their safety and that of their families but do not let our seniors down.

Ms Moraitakis urged the community to join her in honouring all of those who care for seniors.

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During the week SydWest will be sharing stories of staff and clients on its social media channels, culminating in a virtual morning tea on Friday to celebrate their commitment to aged care.

Aged Care Employee Day 2021 is a national day that acknowledges the more than 360,000 people who care for and support around 1.3 million older Australians who receive aged care services. It is an initiative of peak group Leading Aged Care Services Australia.

STATEMENT ENDS /

For further information or to arrange interviews, contact Vikki Hine, Public Affairs & Communications, SydWest Multicultural Services on vikki.hine@sydneywestms.org.au or 9621 6633.

SydWest Multicultural Services is a leading organisation for all cultural diversity issues responding to community needs and opportunities. Established more than 35 years ago, SydWest provides a range of services to culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) individuals and communities services to assist with settling and living productive and independent lives in the community. We offer flexible and integrated service models across the life course of refugees and migrants, supporting the self-determination and empowerment of our diverse communities. SydWest is an innovative employer of choice, with passionate, qualified and experienced bilingual and bicultural staff who are sensitive to the languages and cultures of the communities we represent. With locations in Blacktown, Mt Druitt, Penrith and Rouse Hill, we cover all matters of cultural diversity in the region.

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