

Media Release

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At a time when the Government is extolling the use of masks when physical distancing is not possible, Home and Community Support Providers are becoming increasingly frustrated that sufficient PPE is not being made available for the delivery of aged and disability home based services.

“It appears that the Ministry of Health is applying differing criteria to that recommended for the general population and in other workplace settings, in regard to such close contact services as showering and feeding, within the home support sector” says Graeme Titcombe, CEO of the Home and Community Health Association. “Our provider members are reporting that both their vulnerable clients and key essential workers are feeling unsafe in the current Covid-19 environment, as a result of sufficient PPE not being available”.

“Home and Community Providers believe that appropriate PPE should be utilised in all close contact situations in the delivery of home support, not just when some additional clinical and risk assessment criteria threshold is met. Clients and workers not only need to be safe, but to feel safe, in the delivery of such services. As in the previous ‘lock-down’, it appears that there is one PPE message for the public, while there is a substantially different reality in the supply of PPE to Government funded services. While providers have been assured, time and time again that there are sufficient PPE stocks and they will be made available, they continue to struggle to obtain sufficient PPE supplies”.

“The Home and Community Health Association seek to work proactively with the Ministry of Health and Government, in an endeavour to resolve this issue and to alleviate the heightened anxiety of clients and support workers”.

Home and Community Support providers deliver home based health and disability services to over 100,000 vulnerable New Zealanders utilising a workforce of 16,000 support workers.

For further information contact

Graeme Titcombe
027 2743421
ceo@hcha.org.nz