

RESIDENT ABUSE AND MANDATORY REPORTING

AGED CARE AMENDMENT (SECURITY AND PROTECTION) ACT 2007

The above Act was recently passed by the Federal Parliament and came into effect on 1 July 2007.

Key elements of the Act are:

- the mandatory reporting requirements relating to allegations or incidents of resident abuse
- mandatory police checks for all staff, volunteers and contractors

Under the Act, an approved provider - Freemasons Homes of Southern Tasmania Inc. – must, within 24 hours, report any incident of assault, unreasonable use of force or sexual assault of a resident to the Police and the Secretary of the Department of Health and Ageing for formal investigation.

There is no discretion, even if the resident or the resident's family do not wish to have the matter reported.

The Home already has a robust system of employment checks including police checks for all employees along with clear policies, procedures and processes that ensure, as best we can, that residents are not subjected to any form of abuse within the Home.

The Home's management and staff are committed to maintaining the Home's excellent record in this area and to providing quality care and services to all residents in a dignified and respectful manner.

If you have any concerns relating to these new Federal Government requirements, please feel free to contact me by telephoning 6243 8600.

Yours sincerely



Greg Burgess
Chief Executive Officer