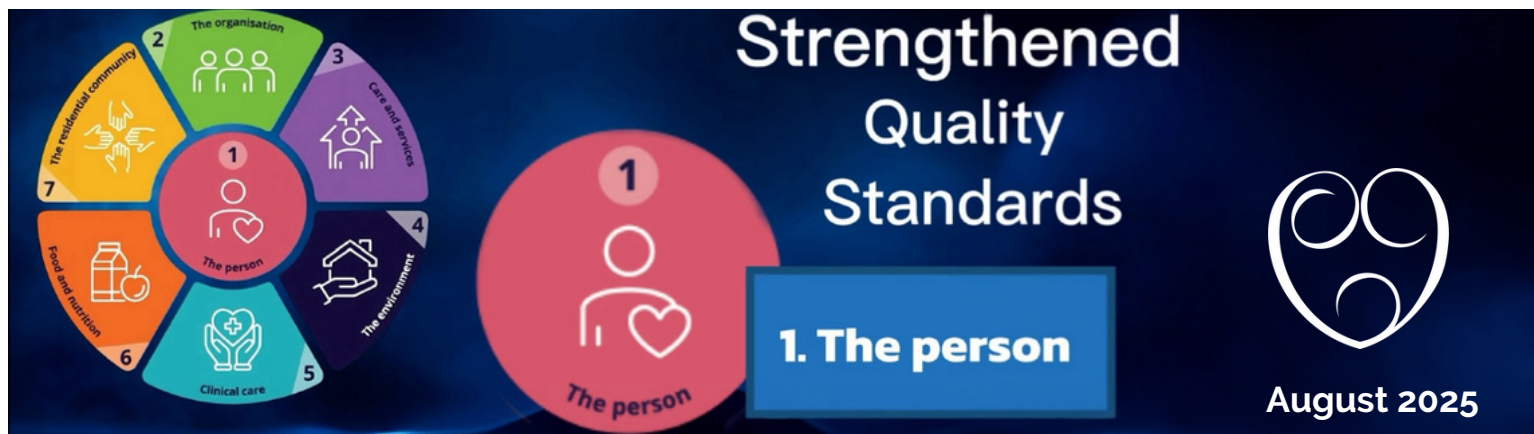




Strengthened aged care quality standards explained by our CEO

Following the interest and success of the series "From the CEO's desk" we asked our CEO to explain to us the new Standards which will create a seven month series.

Standard One is dedicated to the Individual. The Standard has two components. **For the resident it is "I am valued and have choice over the life I lead." For staff it is "I understand the people I care for and support them in choices that impact their lives."**

In essence this Standard is the same as it was under the older Quality Standards. This standard focuses on how we and our staff treat older people, emphasizing dignity and respect, individuality and diversity, independence, choice and control, and culturally safe care. It also includes the concept of "dignity of risk," acknowledging the right of older people to make choices, even if those choices involve some level of risk. This Standard also reflects the new Statement of Rights, which replaces the Charter of Residents Rights.

The Statement of Rights, outlines the rights that older people will have when accessing aged care services. The rights will help to ensure that older people and their needs are at the centre of the new aged care system. What that means in practice that irrespective of the cognitive and functional capacity of a resident they have the right to make decisions about their own life even if they have an existing Power of Attorney or Guardian.

The Statement of Rights and Standard One require that the resident must always be consulted and given the opportunity to voice or make a choice for themselves. So even though New South Wales legislation, like the Guardianship Act 1987 No 257 may have provided for the appointment of a Guardian, the Commonwealth legislation overrides the rights of the Guardian and legally obliges them to consult with the resident before they make a decision on their behalf. In practice this may turn out to be problematic and confusing, but the new Quality Standards put the resident at the centre of the decision-making process even if, and when, we think they do not have the capacity to do so.

For more information go to our Website: holyfamilyservices.com.au