

Bringing people closer together

The Community Visitors Scheme (CVS) is now bringing lonely people together using new iPads funded by a Federal Government Grant.

Part of the COVID recovery money granted to UnitingCare Merimbula purchased iPads for CVS volunteers and clients. The iPads help Facetime 'visits' with families locked out of interstate travel. It has also meant visitors and clients can watch movies together, play games and keep in touch during this time when aged care facilities have had to prevent volunteers from visiting.

The Community Visitors Scheme (CVS) is a national program funded by the Australian Government. It aims to enrich the quality of life of socially isolated older residents in our community. CVS links people with volunteers of similar interests and provides a regular friendly visitor. They spend time together doing something they both enjoy which could be anywhere from jigsaw puzzles to drives in the country, shopping or lunch.

Strong friendships are a critical aspect of older people's emotional well-being.

A community visitor is a person who sets aside time to visit and befriend an older member of the community living at home or in residential care. Visitors share common interests and the people visited benefit from increased community connectedness and decreased anxiety, isolation and loneliness.

If you know someone who would benefit from a visit or you would like to volunteer, contact the CVS Sapphire Coast coordinator on 0422974911 or cvs.sapphire@hotmail.com.

