

# Are There Restrictions on Visiting Grandparents?

## What rights do grandparents have to see their grandchildren while in lockdown.

During the COVID-19 crisis, strict restrictions have been in place to protect the elderly as they are most at risk — especially if they have serious health conditions or a weakened immune system.

Currently, we are seeing the COVID-19 restrictions easing across Australia, but the rules around visiting elderly residents in aged care facilities or at their homes still remains vague.

### Elderly who live at home

The Queensland Government recommends that elderly people should stay home as much as possible. The elderly should only leave their house for essential shopping, medical appointments or to get necessary exercise.

If you want to have visitors in your home, you will need to ensure that you follow social distancing guidelines of 1.5 meters apart. You will not be able to have no more than two people to visit you at any one time if they are not members of your household.

If you and your children want to visit your grandparents, make sure you are well and not showing any signs of flu like symptoms.

### Visiting the elderly who live in an aged care facility

Visits to residential aged care facilities have been restricted.

As of 1 May, you will not be able to visit an elderly resident at an aged care facility if you haven't been vaccinated against influenza. You will also not be able to visit if you have returned from overseas in the last 14 days or been in contact with someone who has tested positive to COVID-19 in the last 14 days.

Depending on the residential aged care facility, they may have the following in place:

- limiting visits to a short duration;
- a limit of two visitors per resident, per day;
- limiting the visit to the resident's room and to avoid communal areas;
- large groups or social events are not permitted.

It is best to call and check with the aged care facility what steps they have taken to minimise the spread of COVID-19 or if they have banned visitors altogether.

### Children

As children are carriers of the COVID-19 virus, children aged 16 and under are prohibited from residential aged care facilities. However, there are exceptions for compassionate grounds for children to visit the residency (e.g palliative care).

### How can I stay connected with my friends and family?

Social distancing does not mean that you cannot be social, you can use technology to:

- have a phone call
- have a video call – Facetime, Skype, Zoom (e.g read your grandchildren a story over video call)
- write an email