

Alex Greenwich
Member for Sydney
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DARLINGHURST NSW 2021



Jenny Leong
Member for Newtown
383 King Street
NEWTOWN NSW 2042

16 July 2021

The Hon. Brad Hazzard MP
Minister for Health
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Minister

Single Social Bubbles

We write to ask that you include clear provisions in the public health orders to allow for single social bubbles during the stay-at-home restrictions in Greater Sydney.

We represent electorates with the highest rates of lone-person households in the state. People living alone are vulnerable to isolation and associated mental health concerns and we are increasingly hearing from constituents who are impacted by the lockdown.

A person who lives alone or a single parent who does not have an intimate partner has no clear option under the public health orders to see other adults. Old and frail people, and people with disability, may not be able to go outside to exercise with another person and single parents may not be able to leave children unattended. Rain and poor weather can also make outdoor exercise an unattractive option for socialising.

While we understand that there is a public health crisis, we are concerned for the emotional wellbeing of the growing number of people who live alone.

During the prolonged lockdown in Melbourne, the Victorian Government introduced 'single social bubbles' to allow adults who live alone, single parents or adults caring for a person with disability or an illness, the option to choose one person to be in their social bubble who they could visit and who could visit them. This was introduced to prevent extreme loneliness and associated mental health concerns.

While the Greater Sydney stay-at-home order includes exemptions on compassionate grounds, it is not clear whether loneliness would constitute such a ground and we are concerned that this gives unnecessary discretion to enforcement officers.

Our constituents want to follow the rules and need clarity within the public health orders. The single social bubbles introduced in Melbourne provide an example that can be adopted here or the government could clarify exemptions on compassionate grounds for lone-person households.

Could you please include clear provisions in the public health orders to allow lone-person households and single parents options to see other adults through single social bubbles and inform us what action you will take?

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AG'.

Alex Greenwich
Member for Sydney
Cc: Premier

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jenny Leong'.

Jenny Leong
Member for Newtown