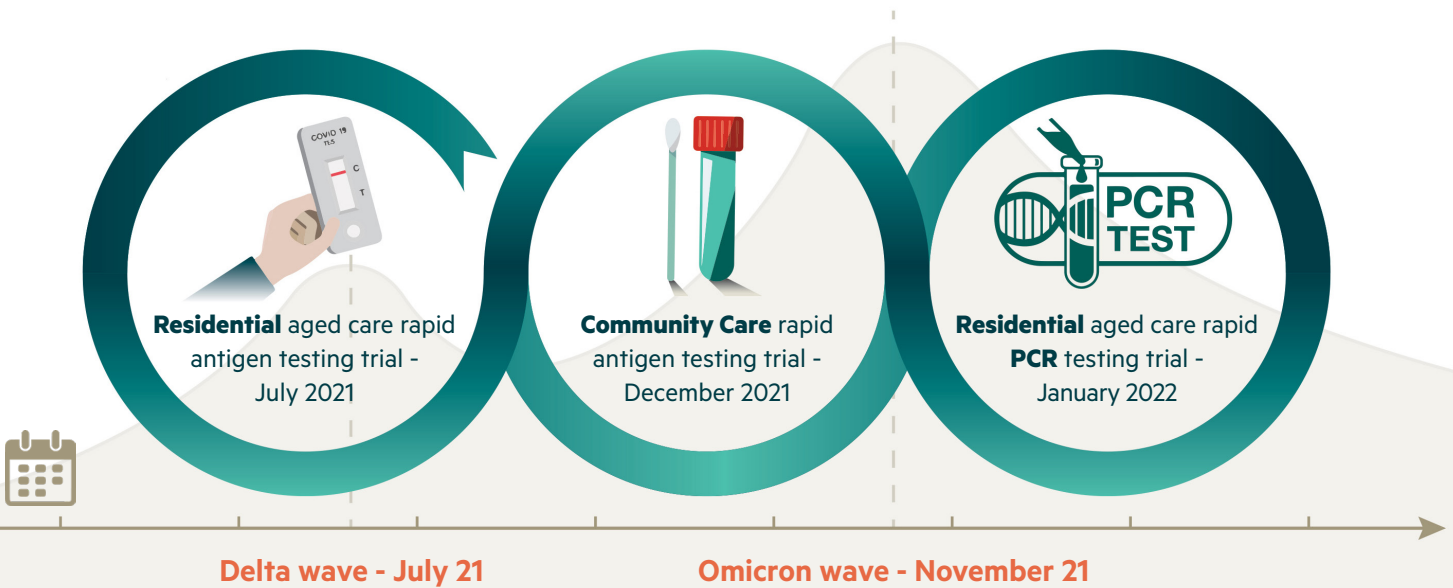


# Industry first rapid PCR trial:

Creating effective COVID-19 screening processes in aged care

## What we did

Whiddon partnered with Pantonic Health conducting a lab-free rapid PCR testing trial at Whiddon Easton Park, endorsed by DNA Nudge, using a portable shoebox-sized rapid PCR testing device (DNANudge test). The trial follows Whiddon's industry-leading rapid antigen testing trial during the COVID-19 Delta variant outbreak, and subsequent rapid antigen testing trial in Community Care.



## Why?

**1.** Early intervention, improved healthcare and infection control

**2.** Workforce safety and increased capacity of workforce

## Lab PCR test vs rapid PCR test



### Lab test process

**1-6 days**

- Employee requires test
- Employee visits pathology
- Employee requires isolation 1-6 days
- Employee receives results via text
- Employee notifies employer
- If negative employee returns to next available shift



### Rapid test process

**90 min**

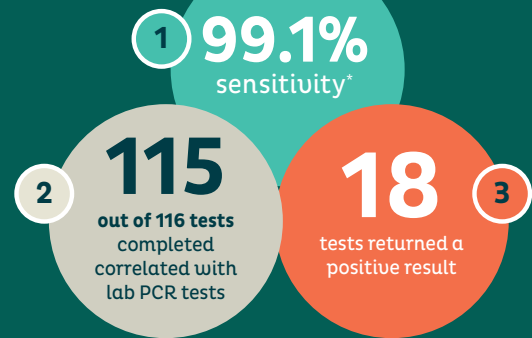
- Employee requires test and tests onsite
- Employee isolates and waits 90 minutes
- If negative, employee returns to their shift

**Whiddon**  
Award-winning care

# Rapid PCR trial: Creating effective COVID-19 screening processes in aged care



## Whiddon COVID Screening Trials July 21 – Jan 22



\*Sensitivity against lab-based PCR tests

## Potential Workforce Impact



### Workforce

**83%** of employees who had lab-based PCR tests in December 2021 tested negative. Rapid PCR testing would see their immediate return to providing care.

**708 hours saved** Based on a conservative 48-hour turnaround for lab results, rapid PCR tests would save 708 valuable hours weekly (**18.6 full-time employees**) that can be directed to critical care management during an outbreak.

**COST SAVINGS** Over a one week period, rapid PCR testing could result in workforce costs savings of up to \$33K per week in staff replacement costs.



### Delivery of care

In high risk environments time delays compromise health and safety – **PCR provides control, and lab-free, fast screening to increase safety.**



### Rapid PCR Testing

- Allows for early intervention to support **Outbreak management and infection control**
- **Reduced operational risks** due to fast results and less stress on workforce management
- **Decreases reliance on the Public Health Network** and labs during periods of increased delays



### Rapid PCR – Benefits for aged care

- **Minimises risks of potential spread of the virus**, which is amplified in rural and remote areas where labs can be located several hours away
- **Reduced workforce demands** due to decreased resident isolation
- More effective **roster management**
- **Remove uncertainty and inefficiency** in the crisis management process, which is critical to delivering successful outcomes
- **Peace of mind** for employees with fast, reliable results
- **Reduces outbreak costs** (agencies and additional support)

## What needs to happen!

1. Following TGA approval, all aged care homes and disability settings across Australia require **Government subsidised access to Rapid PCR units**, including all regional centres.

2. This is required to provide urgent proactive protection to residents, clients and employees alike in the face of current and future strains of COVID-19.