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Music therapy and HenPower transform dementia resident's life

Double dementia sufferer and resident Elaine Stokes, 84, has literally been brought back to life with the aid of [music therapy and Hen therapy](#).

Her behaviour became aggressive and her health declined dramatically when denied access to family and church at the start of lockdown.

‘Care staff always played music, but the music therapist recommended getting Mum to try doing it herself,’ says Joan O’Donnell, Elaine’s daughter.

‘Despite having two forms of dementia, her musical muscle memory is perfectly preserved. The transformation was simply astonishing. We went from a grim and distressing situation to having our lively and engaging mum back.’

Music therapy works by using sounds to awaken the parts of the brain not impacted by dementia.

Leigh Kildey, CE, is thrilled with the results for both residents and families.

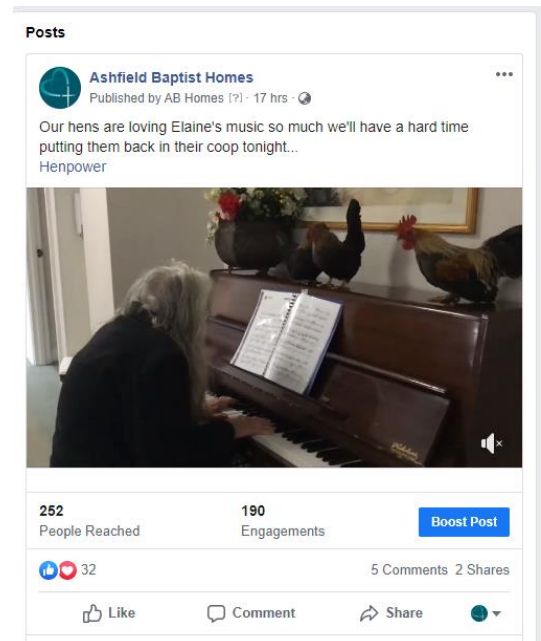
‘When combined with other therapeutical activities, such as HenPower, music therapy creates a holistic approach to dementia treatment. Our hens offer company and engagement to residents less able to get out.

‘The shutdown has forced us to engage our residents in ever increasing new ways. A lot of that generation grew up with chooks.’

Ashfield Baptist Homes is trialling a new visiting online booking system while opening up to limited face to face visits again.

Ends

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About Ashfield Baptist Homes

Ashfield Baptist Homes Limited is a standalone not-for-profit organisation operated by Ashfield Baptist Church providing aged care based on Christian principles for people of all denominations in the Inner West of Sydney.

<http://www.abh.org.au/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ashfieldbh/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ashfieldbh/videos/260281861956142/>

Links

Dementia

<https://www.dementia.org.au/dementia-news/issue-09/Music-therapy-assists-dementia-care-in-Bendigo>

HenPower

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-01-08/henpower-promotes-well-being-in-aged-care-facility/7077092>

