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**SPEAKER:**

Hi, everyone, it's Emma Bennison here back with you for the final weekly update on the work of Blind Citizens Australia for 2021.

It's certainly been a massive year. And if you'd like to read more about our work...in our year in review document, you can do that by visiting our website. And it's also available in your preferred format on request by calling BCA on 1800 033 660.

I wanted to let everyone know that we regularly attend round-table discussions with the NDIS minister, Linda Reynolds, and we've been advocating for a solution to be found to the inaccessibility and just general challenges for people who are blind or vision-impaired of home COVID tests. And it's pleasing to note that the NDIS has now put that on the agenda of the Department of Health to try to find a solution. But in the meantime, they're certainly suggesting that you contact your healthcare professional for assistance.

Of course, we know the challenges that come with that. If you suspect that you're COVID-positive and you need to visit your healthcare professional, then that's challenging if you need to have someone drive you there or assist you in some way, because you don't want to infect them. So yes, we are talking to government departments about all of those challenges on a very regular basis. So just wanted to make sure that people are aware that we are advocating around those issues.

Also wanted to remind you that we're currently seeking expressions of interest for the position of General Manager, Projects and Engagement, which will become vacant when Sally Aurisch steps into the role of CEO when I finish up at the end of January. So if you do have an interest in that role, or if you do know someone else who might have an interest, please visit our website at www.bca.org.au.

And finally, a reminder of our Christmas closure dates which I actually think - I apologise - I might have given you incorrectly a couple of videos ago. But I've bought you some more time, because, in fact, the office closes on 23 December and we will reopen on 10 January. So if you have anything that you need during that time, you can, of course, still contact us via email or leave a message for us on our phone system or visit our website if you need particular information. But we will be returning on 10 January.

And finally, can I just take this opportunity to wish all of our viewers a very, very safe and restful festive season. I hope that you take the time to recharge after what has been a very challenging year, yet again, and that you enjoy time with family and friends if you can.

And I look forward to being back with you in January for a very special video to celebrate World Braille Day, which, of course, is on 4 January. So I hope to speak to you again then. 'Bye for now.