

# *The National Report*

**25 September, 2009 – Issue 212**  
**Aged & Community Services Australia**



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CAN'T DO IT  
WITHOUT YOU



KEVIN87

Seeing Prime Minister Kevin Rudd age 35 years in less than 35 seconds is the eye-opener for ACSA's campaign to boost the image of the aged care sector.

There was extensive media interest from TV and radio and some from print media, of the official launch of the campaign on Monday 21 September - which is also World Alzheimer's Day and Kevin Rudd's birthday (he is now 52).

The launch website [www.kevin87.com.au](http://www.kevin87.com.au) contains pictures of other politicians as they may look when they are 87 as well as important information about the campaign to boost the image of our sector, and samples of the advertisements which will soon start to appear in magazines around Australia. Campaign merchandise can also be ordered at the site.

Donations and contributions to help continue the campaign may also be made through the site or by contacting ACSA directly – [www.agedcare.org.au](http://www.agedcare.org.au)

## Conference Launch

The public launch of the campaign reported above followed its 'internal' launch at ACSA's National Conference last week where the images of Kevin Rudd as an 87 year old were revealed to conference delegates. Plaques were presented to the top 14 industry donors to the campaign, and ACSA CEO Greg Mundy was joined on the stage by Council on the Ageing (COTA) CEO Ian Yates, and Glen Rees of Alzheimer's Australia. They further reinforced the importance of the campaign's central message: that older people can still set and achieve goals, can enjoy life, but that they may need the assistance of aged care professionals to do this.

## You Can Join In

You can do more than just watch this campaign - you can join in. Click on the 'Get Involved' button on the website to access Facebook, Twitter - or order a poster for your office or tea room.  
[www.kevin87.com.au](http://www.kevin87.com.au)

## Related Campaigns

On 21 September – World Alzheimer's Day – Alzheimer's Australia released its 2010 Budget submission setting out proposals for a world class dementia care system. Glenn Rees, CEO of Alzheimer's Australia, said that "The Budget submission had been developed in response to the new projections by Access Economics that more than 1.13 million Australians will have dementia by the middle of this century".

The Australian Nursing Federation is running an aged care campaign with a slogan *Because We Care: Quality Care for Older Australians*. As part of the campaign, Federal Secretary, Ged Kearney, delivered an address at the National Press Club in Canberra on 15 September (the last day of our conference). Minister Elliot attended and heard the message which focused on *Time to deliver on aged care in Budget 2010*.

## Get Up, Stand Up: ACSA National Conference Report

The conference marked an important stage in ACSA's development as a national organisation working for change at the highest level of government and in the community, as instanced by the detailed report above on the Image Campaign.

It was also a great success judging by the traditional indicators of bums on seats and exhibitor numbers. Despite the long distance to the west, over 1,000 people attended, and there were over 100 exhibitors.

The calibre of the speakers was as usual high, despite last minute cancellations of some local keynotes, and their range and variety illustrated the growing interests and concerns of ACSA members nationally.

They included the former High Court Judge, Michael Kirby, who demonstrated an impressive ability to master the aged care brief. Despite a working life of having emails printed out for his perusal, he has, post-bench, learnt to email and google - the latter enabling him to reel off an amazing amount of statistics on the subject. His knowledge of ageing and his championing of our cause, is now impressive, and now goes beyond recent personal age-related illness and weekly Sunday night dinners prepared by, and with, his near centenarian father!

David Challis gave us pause for thought on latest evaluation of client directed care in the UK; Naina Patel was able to compare Australian developments in ethnic ageing provision with the UK; and Jane Tolman pushed strongly for our presence at the 2010 conference in Tasmania (where they have as many wineries as aged care facilities).

Minister Elliot was again unable to attend but sent a short video.

The ACSA National Awards for Excellence were presented at a dinner held during the conference. The Award winners (details below), along with some of the keynotes, will be featured in the next special conference edition of *Agendas*. Also honoured at the conference was Victoria's Tabulam and Templar facility for frail aged German speakers, for its short feature film on ageing.

Those of you unable to attend, or one of the many who forgets most of what they heard and can't read their handwriting a day later, will be pleased to know that some of the presentations will be posted in due course on the ACSA website. In addition, EverTechnology were on hand to record every keynote and themed session, for distribution and sale in a CD-Rom or MP3 audio recording. You can pick or choose what sessions you want, with discounts for larger orders.

*Further details can be found at [www.everttechnology.com](http://www.everttechnology.com) or phone 07 3893 1500.*

## Passion, Empathy and Innovation Win ACSA Aged Care Awards

Seven organisations and individuals from across Australia were honoured with ACSA's 2009 Awards for Excellence.

These National Awards recognise outstanding contributions in the field of aged care. ACSA CEO, Greg Mundy, said "While the efforts of everyone who works in aged care deserve to be applauded, the award winners were singled out for their unique and commendable achievements".

The 2009 Award Recipients are:

- Individual:** Richard Hearn, CEO Resthaven Inc, Malvern, South Australia  
**Employee:** Brad Cooper, EA Comm Packages Program Manager, Baptistcare, Camberwell, Vic  
**Volunteer:** June Longmore, Barwon Health, North Geelong, Victoria  
**Trainee:** Amalia Araujo, Hostel Supervisor, mecwacare "Noel Hiller" Centre, Glen Iris, Vic  
**Organisation:** Amana Living, Cottesloe, Western Australia  
**Industry Supporter:** Management Advantage, North Fitzroy, Victoria  
**Media:** Resthaven Inc, Malvern, South Australia

Details of the achievements of these winners, and names of all the finalists will be reported in the Summer 2009 issue No 52 of ACSA's Agendas.

## ACSA 2010 National Community Care Conference: Gold Coast - Call for Papers - Closing Date - Next Friday, 2 October!

The ACSA National Community Care Conference 2010 *Next Generation Community Care - Rethinking, Reshaping, Rewarding* will be held at the Gold Coast Exhibition & Convention Centre from 2 - 4 June 2010.

ACSA invites submission of papers relevant to the Conference theme. These will be considered for 20 - 30 minute presentations (including question time) in the concurrent sessions.

Key themes for consideration in submitted abstracts include:

- Human Resources;
- Financial Sustainability;
- Business Management;
- Lifestyle Issues;
- Evidence Based Practice;
- Research and Policy;
- Client/Customer Focus;
- Dementia;
- Leadership;
- Buildings of the Future;
- Technology;
- Choice.

**The closing date for submissions is 5pm, 2 October, 2009.**

For further information, please contact the conference organisers on phone 07 3725 5588, or email [events@acqi.org.au](mailto:events@acqi.org.au). Alternatively, you can also visit the ACSA website: [www.agedcare.org.au](http://www.agedcare.org.au).

## Protection of Residential Aged Care Accommodation Bonds

This Report by the Auditor General identifies some potential weaknesses in the prudential regulation regime including: a need for more targeted risk indicators; the development of performance measures; and reviews of the purposes to which aged care providers are applying bonds and bond income. A client services charter is also included in the recommendations, which ironically comes at the same time as the Productivity Commission's Report on regulatory regimes (covered below), which urges caution in increasing regulatory measures.

Minister Elliot has responded to the Report by citing an increased regulatory response to bond difficulties. "We have strengthened the regulation of key personnel to ensure scrutiny of those pulling the financial strings. This is to provide better protection for residents and promote public confidence in the industry," Mrs Elliot said.

The department was developing options to further enhance the regulation of bonds for the Government's consideration.

It was already moving to improve its risk-management planning and to increase monitoring of large approved providers to identify emerging compliance risks.

*The Report can be found at:*

[http://www.anao.gov.au/uploads/documents/2009-10\\_Audit\\_Report\\_5.pdf](http://www.anao.gov.au/uploads/documents/2009-10_Audit_Report_5.pdf)

## **Annual Review of Regulatory Burdens on Business:**

### **Social and Economic Infrastructure Services**

This annual report by the Productivity Commission, like the draft it circulated earlier for feedback, devotes a chapter to aged care. It canvasses a range of issues from bed licences to police checks in terms of the efficiency and cost effectiveness of current approaches to regulation. The report also notes the need to properly index aged care subsidies, citing its earlier work on this subject.

In a concluding chapter the report states that there “remains scope for the Australian Government to do more to improve regulatory outcomes”. The strengthening of police checks and the requirement to report ‘missing’ residents to the Department are cited as examples of where exemptions were given to the Departmental Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) process – because they were deemed to be minor in nature, but where in practice the impact looks to have been substantial.

Recommendations for greater transparency in the RIS process including a central registry (across Government) and consultation with affected parties are made.

*The Report can be found at:*

<http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/study/regulatoryburdens/social-economic-infrastructure/report>

## **Ministerial Conference on Ageing**

The Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers Responsible for the Care of Older Australians and the Australian Local Government Association met in Canberra at the third Ministerial Conference on Ageing on 11 September.

They discussed the issue of transitional care places for older Australians to retain their independence after a hospital stay, and received an outline of the National Health and Hospital Reform Commission (NHHRC) recommendations in relation to aged care and an update on the national program of health and hospital reform consultations.

Ministers discussed and noted further measures to be introduced to help address the challenges of our ageing population, including:

- The increase in pension payments;
- A comprehensive approach to risk management for emergency events in residential aged care and the incorporation of the six national principles for disaster recovery;
- Discussion on residential care and people with psychogeriatric disorders and work being conducted by the External Reference Group’s consideration of the relevant recommendations in the NHHRC Report;
- An update on the rollout of the \$46 million Indigenous Aged Care plan; and
- Agreement of the implementation of a national guide for practical measures for community care service providers on how to respond when a client does not respond to a scheduled visit.

## Community & Disability Services Ministers' Conference

The Community and Disability Services Ministers also met in Canberra on 11 September to progress the substantial reform agenda for disability services including the significant progress - exceeding the targets set - made by all jurisdictions implementing key elements of the National Disability Agreement (NDA) and the \$100 million supported accommodation initiative to assist older carers. They noted the progress made by each state and territory on moving young people from residential aged care and preventing further young people from being placed in residential aged care, through the Young People with a Disability in Residential Aged Care Program.

Ministers agreed to a national stocktake of current initiatives to help older carers and people with disability plan for the future. This will inform strategies to respond to the needs of older carers.

## Population Ageing Research Centre, Longevity Index and Larger Population

The Treasurer Wayne Swan, on 18 September announced a larger, younger Australian population than expected, the establishment of the Australian Institute for Population Ageing Research (AIPAR) at the University of New South Wales, and launched AIPAR's Longevity Index.

The AIPAR will help to inform debate and develop policy options about the challenges of our ageing population. The AIPAR has been developed within the University of New South Wales and has brought together researchers, government and industry.

The AIPAR's new Longevity Index will track the ability of an individual to maintain their living standards over their lifetime.

The Treasurer said the new Intergenerational Report, which will be released later this year, projects Australia's population to grow by 65 per cent to reach over 35 million people in 2049.

The 35 million projection is significantly higher than the previous IGR projection of 28.5 million in 2047. The difference is largely driven by a greater number of women of childbearing age, higher fertility rates, and increased net overseas migration.

## 250,000 Hot Water Bottles Recalled

Following a rise in severe burns resulting from hot water bottles splitting, bursting and leaking, sparking random testing of 30 brands of hot water bottles by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) and related state and territory consumer regulators, of which 18 were not found to comply with mandatory safety standards. This has resulted in close to a quarter of a million hot water bottles being recalled across Australia.

*For more information about the brands recalled, or if you have been injured by a hot water bottle or want to provide information to the ACCC, please call 1300 302 502.*

## National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS)

The second round of the NRAS, announced on 15 September, includes several successful aged care providers amongst the 6,741 new affordable rental homes for low and middle income earners to be funded. Details of the allocations were contained in a media release from Minister Plibersek which can be viewed on her website [www.tanyaplibersek.fahcsia.gov.au](http://www.tanyaplibersek.fahcsia.gov.au) .

## Senate Question on Consumer Directed Care

In the Federal Senate on 9 September Senator Ludwig, on behalf of the Minister for Ageing, told Senator Cormann (WA) that “The Australian Government fully supports the principle that people receiving care under a CACP should be actively involved in negotiating the care to be provided as part of their package” and that the Government is also currently considering the recommendations of the NHHRC, including the recommendation that people supported to receive care in the community should be given the option to determine how the resources allocated for their care and support are used.

The Senator’s reply also said that CACP providers remain responsible and accountable for all care and services delivered under a CACP including case management. Notwithstanding this, it is possible for care recipients and/or their representative(s) to take an active role in the administration of care delivered under their package, if the CACP provider agrees.

## Aged Care Legislation

Recent aged care legislative amendments and determinations cover changes to aged care supplement rates of concessional resident, transitional care, hardship and pensioners, in line with changes made to both the Aged Care Act 1997 and the Social Security Act 1997.

*They can be found on the departmental website and on the following Commonwealth Law site:*  
<http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Legislation/LegislativeInstrument1.nsf/all/whatsnew>

## Participants Wanted for Survey on Best Workplaces

ACSA encourages your participation in the ‘JRA Best Workplaces in Aged Care’ Survey.

Great workplaces are not only better able to attract, and retain key talent, but also enjoy substantial performance advantages as well. The survey – available until the end of September - is quick and easy to do, will provide critical workplace insights at a time when the need has never been greater, and benchmark your organisation against industry norms.

Register today at: <http://www.bestworkplaces.com.au/agedcare>

## Carers Australia - Carers Week 2009 Website Launched

The National Carers Week website, <http://www.carersweek.com.au/>, is now live. The website contains information about the theme and support services available to carers as well as information on events happening across the country to celebrate the week (18-24 October 2009).

## New NHMRC Prevention and Community Health Committee

On 8 September 2009 Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Health, Mark Butler announced the establishment and membership of a new Principal Committee of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) – the Prevention and Community Health Committee (PCHC).

The Committee will provide NHMRC CEO, Professor Warwick Anderson, with advice on issues in community and public health, as well as prevention of illness.

PCHC will provide expert advice on promoting and maintaining good health and wellbeing including such matters as public and environmental health, illness prevention, community and health consumer issues, and healthy ageing.

The Committee will have a key role in supporting NHMRC's relationship with the proposed National Preventive Health Agency.

## TGA Pandemic Flu Vaccine Approval

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) announced on 18 September it will register the CSL pandemic influenza (swine flu) vaccine enabling the national vaccination program to start on 30 September.

The TGA has been progressively assessing data from adult human trials of the vaccine and has determined that one injection of the vaccine is safe and effective for use in adults.

The initial rollout of the vaccine will concentrate on vaccinating front-line health workers and vulnerable people who may experience severe effects from the pandemic influenza. The wider population will also be able to access the vaccine.

The priority groups of interest to our sector for the vaccination are:

- Front line health care and community care workers who have direct contact with patients;
- People with underlying chronic medical conditions such as asthma, cancers, HIV, heart disease, diabetes, and chronic kidney failure;
- People who are obese with a BMI over 35; and
- Indigenous people and remote and isolated communities with indigenous people.

ACSA has been advised that information from the Department of Health and Ageing about the arrangements for and availability of the vaccine in aged care services will be sent out very shortly.

## Nursing Scholarships

The Australian Government funded Nurse Scholarship Program (NSP) and Mental Health Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme (MHPSS) administered by Royal College of Nursing, Australia (RCNA) are now offering nursing scholarships combining five existing scholarships into one program.

The scheme targets key nursing demographics including rural and remote students and nurses, nurse practitioners, mental health nurses and people wishing to re-enter the nursing workforce.

- Undergraduate scholarships are available to students with a rural or remote background studying to become a registered/division 1 nurse, with funding worth up to \$30,000.
- Continuing Professional Education scholarships are available for registered and enrolled nurses and midwives with a rural or remote background. Funding of up to \$10,000 is available for professional development activities including programs, courses and conference attendance.
- Nurse Practitioner scholarships support nurses studying towards endorsement as a nurse practitioner, and are worth up to \$30,000.
- Mental Health Nursing scholarships are available for registered nurses to undertake postgraduate study in mental health nursing, and are worth up to \$30,000.
- National Nurse Re-entry Scheme scholarships are worth up to \$6,000 for those studying to re-enter the nursing workforce.

*Interested applicants are encouraged to contact RCNA via the website [www.rcna.org.au](http://www.rcna.org.au); email: [scholarships@rcna.org.au](mailto:scholarships@rcna.org.au) or phone: 1800 117 262.*

## Local Palliative Care Grants Program - Round 5 - Dementia

The Department of Health and Ageing is seeking applications from health related services/organisations/consortia to develop better palliative and end of life care for people with a mental illness, Alzheimer's disease or other dementias.

Grants of between \$200,000 and \$600,000 (GST inclusive) will be made available for projects of up to 18 months duration over the 2009-10 and 2010-11 financial years.

The closing date for applications is 2pm on Wednesday 30 September 2009 in Canberra.

*For further information please visit:*

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/grant0520910>

## Clinical Practice Guidelines for Better Management of Arthritis Disorders

Three comprehensive clinical practice guidelines have been made available for better management of osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis and juvenile idiopathic arthritis in Australia.

The guidelines have been developed to assist GPs and other primary care health professionals in effectively managing and diagnosing patients with arthritic conditions.

*The guidelines can be downloaded from:*

<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/synopses/cp117to119syn.htm>

## Clinical Practice Guidelines for Type 2 Diabetes

Four Diabetes Type 2 Guidelines are now available:

- National Evidence Based Guideline for Diagnosis, Prevention and Management of Chronic Kidney Disease in Type 2 Diabetes;
- National Evidence Based Guideline for Case Detection and Diagnosis of Type 2 Diabetes;
- National Evidence Based Guideline for Patient Education in Type 2 Diabetes; and
- National Evidence Based Guideline for Blood Glucose Control in Type 2 Diabetes.

*The guidelines can also be downloaded at:*

<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/synopses/di16to19syn.htm>

## Better Use of Medicines in Palliative and End-Of-Life Care

A report into appropriate, safe and effective medicines use in palliative care will be launched by the National Prescribing Service (NPS) and Palliative Care Australia at the 10th Australian Palliative Care Conference on 25 September.

The report, *Achieving quality use of medicines in the community for palliative and end-of-life care*, is the first to document a shared understanding of the barriers to the best use of medicines during the end stages of life. Informed by submissions from more than 70 healthcare organisations and individuals, the report identifies key issues affecting medicines use in palliative care and identifies opportunities for action and areas where further work is needed.

*This Report will be available from:* [www.nps.org.au/home](http://www.nps.org.au/home)

## Disabilities Convention Optional Protocol

The Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities now applies in Australia. The Protocol provides a mechanism for Australians to make complaints to the United Nations Disabilities Committee in the event that all domestic remedies have been exhausted.

## Hearing Health in Australia

On 10 September 2009 the Senate referred the issue of Hearing Health in Australia to the Community Affairs References Committee for inquiry and report by the last sitting day in February 2010:

It will examine:

- a the extent, causes and costs of hearing impairment in Australia;
- b the implications of hearing impairment for individuals and the community;
- c the adequacy of access to hearing services, including assessment and support services, and hearing technologies;
- d the adequacy of current hearing health and research programs, including education and awareness programs; and
- e specific issues affecting Indigenous communities.

*The Committee is seeking written submissions from interested individuals and organisations preferably sent electronically by 9 October to: [community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au)*

## Rob Knowles Appointment

A former Aged Care Commissioner, state health minister and member of the NHHRC has been appointed to the board of the South Australian Royal District Nursing Service (RDNS). Rob Knowles, who served as a senior Victorian cabinet minister for seven years in the Kennett Government, says community care for older Australians will continue to play a vital role in coming years.

“There is no doubt home-based health care will increase as a major component of health care to Australians in the future,” he said “RDNS is already planning for the changes and I am excited to be a member of their board during this interesting time for the health sector.”

## St George Bank - Kell and Rigby Aged Care Scholarship Winner

Jenny Gill, Director of Special Projects & Project Management of Hall & Prior Aged Care has won the \$20,000 aged care scholarship from St George Bank and Kell & Rigby.

Jenny plans to go on an overseas tour to report on the best practices in aged care around the globe, investigating leading models of design, dementia care and even the application of robotics in aged care. The St George Bank and Kell & Rigby scholarship is available to senior managers working for aged care organisations in Australia.

## **SA Hospital in the Home Pioneer - 2009 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year for the Central Region.**

The managing director of Australia's first 'hospital in the home' program has been recognised as one of the country's top entrepreneurs. Virginia Bullock was named the 2009 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year for the Central Region. Ms Bullock founded Home Support Services (HSS) in South Australia in 1989 and today the organisation provides in-home care and assistance to more than 20,000 Australians every year. The company aims to free up acute care beds by helping patients to leave hospital early or to avoid entering hospital altogether. It has offices in South Australia and Queensland and employs 350 people.

## **Community Services and Health Industry Training Board Award**

Glen Waverley Nursing Home in Victoria has won the 2009 Employer Achievement in Creating a Learning Culture Award in the recent Community Services & Health Industry Training Board Training Awards.

The CS&HITB Training Awards were established in 2000 by the Board of Directors to encourage an industry learning culture, recognise innovation in training delivery and personal achievements by students. The awards are an annual event in which any community services and health organisation may nominate in either the Employer, Student or Innovation in Training & Assessment.

## **Non-Profit Report**

Non-profit institutions contributed close to \$43 billion (or 4.1%) to Australia's economy in 2006/07, as measured by gross domestic product, according to figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Non-profit institutions received income of \$76.6 billion and employed close to 890,000 people during the same period.

The types of non-profit institution activities that contributed to gross value added were education and research (27%), health and hospitals (17%), culture and recreation (16%) and social services (16%).

Volunteers made an important contribution to non-profit institutions. In 2006/07, volunteers contributed 623 million hours to non-profit institutions, equating to 317,200 full-time equivalent jobs. The economic value of these hours was estimated to be \$14.6 billion.

*Further details are in Australian National Accounts: Non-Profit Institutions Satellite Account, 2006/07 (cat. no. 5256.0) available free at [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)*

## **Cost of Arthritis Increases with Ageing Population**

Spending on arthritis and other musculoskeletal conditions increased by more than 5% annually between 2000-01 and 2004-05, according to the *Health expenditure for arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions 2004-05* report released by Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

The report found that arthritis and other musculoskeletal conditions, such as osteoporosis, account for more spending on doctors and specialists than any other disease group in Australia, at almost \$1.2 billion.

According to the report, arthritis and other musculoskeletal conditions were the fourth largest contributor to direct health expenditure in 2004-05, amounting to \$4 billion or more than 7% of total allocated health expenditure.

About 6 million Australian men, women and children have a musculoskeletal condition.

*The report is available at [www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10699](http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10699)*

## **Many Australians Coping with Multiple Disabilities**

The latest *Disability in Australia: multiple disabilities and need for assistance* report released by the AIHW examines the frequency of multiple disabilities and their impact on the care needs of Australians.

In 2003, half of all Australians with disability, or about two million people, had a combination of two or more disabilities, including intellectual, psychiatric, sensory/speech, disability from acquired brain injury (ABI) and physical disabilities.

The report shows a substantial proportion of care for people with multiple disabilities is provided by their family members and friends.

The report also found that people with multiple disabilities who needed very frequent assistance with daily activities were much less likely to have their needs fully met than people with less frequent need for assistance.

Support needs of people with early onset multiple disabilities vary depending on the nature of their disabilities and their life stages. As they grow older, they may have higher support needs than other people with single or late onset disability.

*The report is available at: [www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10788](http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10788)*

**Aged & Community Services Australia  
Level 1, 36 Albert Road, South Melbourne Vic 3205  
Ph: 03 9686 3460  
Email: [info@agedcare.org.au](mailto:info@agedcare.org.au)**