



Media Release

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Dementia report an urgent reminder to act - ACSA

Aged and Community Services Australia (ACSA) has applauded the release of the Access Economics report – *Keeping Dementia Front of Mind: Incidence and Prevalence 2009 – 2050* – commissioned by Alzheimer’s Australia.

ACSA CEO Greg Mundy said the report highlighted the very real impact the epidemic of dementia is having on health and aged care services now and its likely impact in the future. “The forecast growth in the numbers of people suffering from dementia underscores the need for reform in aged care services,” Mr Mundy said.

“The issues associated with caring for people with dementia also emphasize the need to increase flexibility in how and where aged care services are provided.

“An earlier Access Economics report – *Making Choices* – has estimated a shortfall of 60,000 paid workers to care for people with dementia within two decades. The aged care workforce is tireless in its commitment to care and support older Australians but limited resources due to inadequate funding mean it is difficult to attract and keep aged care workers.

” If we are to meet the needs of those with dementia, and other older people, Governments must invest effectively and extensively in aged care services. Current funding levels are inadequate and that chasm is set to widen as demands and costs grow. The compelling figures in the new Access Economics report demonstrate that the provision of quality aged care can not be ignored.

“The National Health and Hospital Reform Commission called for broad reform in the aged care sector and the Access Economics report provides another forceful argument for action.

“*Keeping Dementia Front of Mind* is an edict which must be heeded if we are to avoid a crisis where our aged care sector is not equipped to cope. Continued research and understanding of dementia is a vital part of the process to facilitate the development and implementation of optimum aged care services.”

Mr Mundy commended the report and urged the Federal Government to continue its support of Alzheimer’s Australia in its endeavours to uncover the causes of dementia and devise preventative strategies.

ACSA represents more than 1,100 church, charitable and community based organisations providing accommodation and care services to more than 700,000 older Australians, people with a disability and their carers.

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