

Media Release

Thursday, June 25, 2009



Government inaction forces aged care residents out of homes

Vulnerable older Australians are again being forced to bear the brunt of Federal Government inaction on aged care funding, according to the national peak body for church and charitable aged care providers.

Aged and Community Services Australia (ACSA) CEO Greg Mundy said today's announcement that 105 residents from two Victorian facilities will be forced to relocate is a sad indictment.

"The Federal Government can no longer ignore the alarm which has been sounding for too long," Mr Mundy said.

"Uniting Aged Care Victoria and Tasmania has been forced to close their facilities in Kew and Ascot Vale due to lack of funding.

"The residents are losing their homes at a time in their lives when they most require stability, security and care.

"The recent Senate report on aged care provided a comprehensive overview and recommendations including a call for a complete review of aged care services.

"The recommendations echo repeated calls from the aged care sector for the Government to address the complexity and shortfall in funding so that older Australians can enjoy the care they need and deserve.

"An interim report by the National Health and Hospital Reform Commission has also recognised the compelling case for change.

"The impending closure of the Kew and Ascot Vale facilities is the tip of the iceberg that is aged care.

"Right now there are an estimated 1 million people in residential and community care in Australia. The rest of the "iceberg" represented by our rapidly growing ageing population won't melt – it will continue to increase.

"We don't have to be on a collision course. The Government needs to recognise the magnitude of the situation with which we are faced and take appropriate action starting today."

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