

# **Media Release**

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**For immediate release**



## **Real building blocks for aged care**

Improved housing options for older Australians have moved a step closer thanks to the Federal Government's economic stimulus package, ACSA CEO Greg Mundy said today.

Aged and Community Services Australia (ACSA) is the peak body representing more than 1,100 church, charitable and community based organisations providing accommodation and care services to over 700,000 older people, people with disabilities and their carers.

"I am delighted the Government has recognised the extensive and multiple needs of ageing Australians under its nation building and jobs plan," Mr Mundy said. Accommodation for older Australians comes under the umbrella of the \$6.4 billion social housing component of the package.

"Providing appropriate services and accommodation for older people is a critical and complex issue," Mr Mundy said.

"It is now well recognised that older people will comprise a greater part of our population into the future. Many will require the care and services offered by nursing homes and hostels but equally we must cater for those living independently.

"While affordable housing is a critical factor for the well being of all Australians, accommodation for older members of the community has tended to fall below the radar."

"Housing stress, caused by the inability to meet the costs of keeping a roof over your head, is particularly significant for older people with increasingly limited resources.

"This initiative will go some way towards addressing the social housing needs of these members of the community."

But Mr Mundy stressed that a proper evaluation of how aged care is funded more broadly must remain firmly on the agenda, as the real costs of service provision and the capital needed for aged-care beds continue to exceed the financial support offered by governments.

"The Government's stimulus package provides an ideal opportunity for State governments to properly identify the housing needs of those who are able to live independently in both public and private accommodation, he said."

Mr Mundy said aged-care organisations already provide more than 40,000 houses for older people across Australia and many have projects that could be started quickly.

Mr Mundy said ACSA, through its state-based organisations, would approach State Governments to ensure a range of housing options for older Australians are part of the proposals presented to the Federal Government.

"This is an exciting initiative which can better the homes and lives of older Australians, real building blocks for a healthier future for aged care," Mr Mundy said.

**For Further Information**

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