

# **Media Release**

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**For immediate release**



## **AGED CARE INDUSTRY WELCOMES SANTO SANTORO**

The ageing of Australia's population will impact on many areas of national policy over the coming decades – that's what makes the Ageing portfolio in the federal Ministry so important, so interesting and so challenging.

Aged and Community Services Australia (ACSA) today welcomed Senator Santo Santoro to his new portfolio and congratulated him on his appointment.

"There's a lot still to be done if Australia is to meet the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities that will come from our maturing as a nation" commented Greg Mundy ACSA's CEO."

"Providing high quality, accessible and affordable care, housing and support to rapidly growing numbers of frail older people must be one of the Australian Government's key priorities, for the remainder of the current term and well beyond" Mr Mundy added.

"We look forward to working with Senator Santoro in building on the achievements of his predecessor, Julie Bishop, and charting future directions for the provision of care"

"The Government has, for some time, foreshadowed the release of a Discussion Paper based on the longer-term recommendations of the 2004 Hogan report on residential care pricing. Now's the time to get this paper out so that the Australian community generally, and the aged care sector, can debate the best approaches for the future" Mr Mundy said.

ACSA has identified a number of areas for attention in this year's federal budget including expansion and strengthening of community care services, improving the equity of user charging in residential care and ensuring access to aged and community care services in rural Australia.

"Meeting the care needs of increasingly frail older people will continue to require a significant investment of public money. Cutting the aged care red tape is also a continuing challenge. We look forward to discussing these needs with Senator Santoro after he has been sworn in."

ACSA represents over 1,200 church, charitable and community-based organisations providing housing, supported accommodation and community care services to around half a million older Australians, people with a disability and their carers.

**For Further Information**

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