

**Media Release**  
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**For immediate release**



**ALP STILL TO MEET AGEING CHALLENGE**

The Leader of the Opposition's reply to the federal budget was silent on one of the most significant social and economic challenges facing Australia, the ageing of our population. This was the response to Kevin Rudd's budget reply speech from Greg Mundy, CEO of Aged and Community Services Australia (ACSA).

"Both sides of politics need to commit to ensuring that Australia's aged care system is ready for the army of older people marching towards it." Mr Mundy stated.

"Tuesday's budget did some useful things but it did not secure the future of aged care services, as the Government claimed." Mr Mundy observed. "The Opposition Leader's speech in reply made no commitments at all in this important area."

"Older Australians need and deserve more commitment from both sides of politics to the adequate resourcing of our system of care."

Increasing the nation's productivity is an important factor in terms of Australia's capacity to pay for the care of increasing numbers of older people and ensuring that the technical skills needed to care for our ageing population are available is equally vital but it is a concern to us that Mr Rudd's speech made no reference to these issues.

"Ignoring the ageing of our population and its implications for our system of care is not a sustainable position." Mr Mundy commented.

Streamlining regulation, as promised by Mr Rudd, is a pressing issue in aged care and we will be scrutinising the Opposition's aged care policy carefully to ensure that it complies with this commitment.

ACSA calls on the Federal Opposition and the Government to rise to the challenge of meeting the needs of our ageing population and to give this issue the prominence it deserves.

ACSA represents over 1,200 church, charitable and community-based organisations providing housing, supported accommodation and community care services to around 750,000 older Australians, people with a disability and their carers.

**For Further Information**

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