

**Media Release**  
**Sunday, 1 July 2007**  
**For immediate release**



**AGED CARE LINKS TO HOSPITALS ARE IMPORTANT**

“Linking the various parts of Australia’s network of care services used by older people into a coherent system is an important project for a country with an ageing population.”

Commenting on the policy statement issued by Mr Rudd at yesterday’s Queensland ALP conference, Greg Mundy CEO of Aged and Community Services Australia (ACSA) agreed that the hospital community linkage was very important in ensuring that the right care is provided in the right setting.

“Providing care in the most important setting is vital to the overall well-being of older people,” Mr Mundy added. “People who should be in hospital shouldn’t be in nursing homes but people should not remain in hospital because there aren’t nursing home beds or adequate community care services or because the appropriate transition services are not in place.”

“It’s not good for them, their care, or for the overall efficiency of the system.”

“Initiatives in this area have the potential to improve outcomes across the board. What is proposed builds on existing projects and experience but mainstreaming transition care services so that they become a standard part of our care system throughout Australia would be a significant step forward” Mr Mundy commented.

“Partnerships between hospitals and aged care services have demonstrated their potential in several areas of Australia and more can be done in this area.”

“Building better links between hospitals and a return home, or a transition to residential aged care, is a worthwhile investment”.

Fine tuning of the current system for planning and allocating aged care places is also proposed in the ALP paper. ACSA would support this if it enhances the range of care options available to support frail older Australians and adds to the overall efficiency of the system.

There’s a level of detail still to be worked through in Mr Rudd’s announcements but we agree that these are issues well worth discussing.

“We look forward to the Government’s response on improvements in these areas.” Mr Mundy concluded.

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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