

Media Release

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For immediate release



AGED CARE INDUSTRY WELCOMES FUNDING PACKAGE

The aged care industry's leading peak body today described the Australian Government's new package of measures as "a welcome boost to an industry under strain".

"The aged care sector will be pleased with many of the elements in today's package," commented Greg Mundy CEO of Aged and Community Services Australia (ACSA).

"Everyone knows that our population is ageing and we need to invest in the system that cares for the growing numbers of older Australians."

"Today's announcements contain welcome further recognition of this fact. They are a step forward."

"Funding for high care (nursing homes) in particular has been tight as costs have risen faster than Government subsidies. Funding for nursing home capital costs has been the most difficult area of all. This package contains measures to address many of the issues in this area, identified by Professor Warren Hogan in his 2004 report on aged care funding."

"More resources will be available to build new, and refurbish existing, nursing homes and there will be greater equity in the user payments for these services, particularly between pensioners and self-funded retirees."

"We are pleased that these are not one-off top ups but will mean ongoing increases in the level of capital available."

"The substantial boost to community care services is consistent with people's desire to remain living at home for as long as possible."

"Our members are convinced that community care will only increase in importance in the years ahead and will look forward to expanding this aspect of their services."

"We look forward to continuing to work with Government to meet the needs of people needing our care and to addressing the many challenges posed by the growth in the demand for aged and community care services and the resources needed to service this demand." Mr Mundy added.

"In an election year we call on all of the major parties to recognise the importance of aged care as an issue. Ageing touches all of our lives - through our grandparents, our parents and finally ourselves. We must start to prepare for our future today."

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.

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