



AGED CARE INDUSTRY COUNCIL



Peak Council of Australia's Aged Care Providers

Friday, 31 August 2007

EMINENT ECONOMIST ENDORSES AGED CARE INDUSTRY'S CLAIM

Professor Warren Hogan who conducted a major \$7 million review of aged care pricing for the federal government has endorsed the industry's claims that it is under funded.

Speaking at the 3rd Annual Ageing Population Summit in Brisbane, Professor Hogan said that the temporary additional funding provided in 2004 should be extended to 2011 and a new index developed to measure the increase in aged care costs. Professor Hogan expressed disappointment that his recommendations had not been adopted in full by the Government in either their 2004 or their more recent 2007 response to his major report.

Professor Hogan also called for reform of the inadequate and inequitable system of user charging for accommodation in high care (nursing homes).

These are two of the central claims in the Aged Care Industry Council's manifesto for the 2007 Federal Election.

"It is pleasing to see that our claims are supported by one of Australia's eminent economists, and the person that the Government chose to review aged care funding" commented Greg Mundy from the Aged Care Industry Council (ACIC).

"The Government has really side-stepped these aspects of Professor Hogan's recommendations, they need to be reminded that putting your head in the sand is not a solution to the challenges of caring for an ageing population." argued Rod Young from ACIC.

The Aged Care Industry Council has recently written to key decision makers on both sides of politics seeking opportunities to discuss various solutions to the challenges of caring for increasing numbers of older people.

"This is a serious issue and one which our research indicates will be strongly taken into account by 35% of voters later this year. The political parties ignore it at their peril. Mr Mundy concluded.

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