



Media Release

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International Day of Older Persons a reality check

Today, International Day of Older Persons, is an opportunity to celebrate the lives of older Australians, CEO of Aged and Community Services Australia (ACSA) Greg Mundy said today.

“In the ten years since the International Year of Older Persons, Australia has moved slowly to recognise the invaluable contribution of older members of our community and plan for a future when they will comprise almost one quarter of our population,” Mr Mundy said.

“This year marks a turning point which is appropriate to recognise today. The National Health and Hospital Reform Commission’s recommendations for reform in the aged care sector are a significant step towards rehabilitating vital care and support services for older Australians.

“We welcome the Federal Government’s commitment to addressing the short falls in aged care including inadequate funding across residential and community care services, a system which is unable to meet the diverse and compelling needs of older people, and onerous, often punitive, regulations governing the supply of services.

“ACSA is heartened that the Government is paying attention to the needs of so many people who have made our country what it is today. But older Australians need more than a Charter of Rights and Responsibilities for Community Care announced by the Minister for Ageing today.

“There is so much more that needs to be done to ensure Australia can and will be able to provide optimum care and support for our elderly when, where and however they need it.

“ACSA’s recently released campaign “We can’t do it without you” highlights the invaluable role of aged care professionals in assisting older people live fulfilling and rewarding lives. The campaign makes the point that should we all have the good fortune to grow older, we should be able to make the most of each and every day. Aged care professionals help make that a reality.

“This time next year, and the year after, growing older will start to mean that much more for those of us edging towards our senior years – it should mean everything to us today.”

Mr Mundy called on all Australians to celebrate the lives of older people and in doing so generate a robust conversation about aged care today and for the future.

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