

Media Release

Monday, 16 February 2009



TIME TO OPEN UP AGED CARE?

The Interim Report of the Health and Hospitals Reform Commission, released today throws down a positive challenge to Australia's aged and community care system.

Commenting on the report Aged and Community Services Australia's CEO, Greg Mundy stated:

"The Commission's report underlines the need for some fresh thinking in aged care - we support this. We agree that services need to become more responsive to the needs of older people and that the existing government regulatory framework doesn't support this."

"There is no doubt that demand for aged care services, both for those living at home, and for those that need some form of residential care will increase. If we don't get aged care right, the consequences will be felt right through the health care system and by older people themselves."

"More flexibility, more choice and greater freedom for aged care providers to meet people's needs are things we have been arguing for some time." Mr Mundy stated.

"These will need to be coupled with more flexible ways of paying for services and a breakthrough on the vexed issue of paying for accommodation, whether this be through accommodation bonds, market related rental charges or a combination of the two.

Linking and connecting different parts of the services system is a challenge and the Commission is right to identify it as one of their six key messages in aged care.

"We will study the report in detail and provide comment on the specific recommendations applying to aged and community care. There are some positive ideas for change in the report but we will need to explore their implications."

"Opening up these key questions is a good start, now let's make sure that the devil is not in the detail" Mr Mundy concluded.

ACSA represents over 1,100 church, charitable and community-based organisations providing housing, supported accommodation and community care services to around 700,000 older Australians, people with a disability and their carers.

For Further Information

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