

Media Release

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For immediate release



Budget blow for older Australians

Australia's peak national body for aged care says the Federal Budget has done nothing to address the accommodation crisis in aged care.

"It is difficult to believe that the Government has ignored a chorus of voices, including a recent Senate inquiry, and failed to correct the alarming deficit in infrastructure funding," Aged and Community Services Australia CEO Greg Mundy said.

"The public hospital sector has been promised a new system to deliver record funding in recognition of rising health and technology costs and more than a billion dollars to upgrade hospital infrastructure across Australia," Mr Mundy said.

"Despite the ageing of our population the nation building agenda comprising funding for roads, rail, ports, universities, hospitals and technology has not been extended to aged care.

"The Minister for Ageing says Australians have the longest life expectancy in the English speaking world. And still the Government continues to neglect the needs of those whom the Treasurer has acknowledged as having worked hard to make Australia great.

"This Budget may have some impressive figures but aged care has been handed a funding formula designed to weigh down the industry that is struggling to stay afloat."

"Genuine reform of the funding system for aged care accommodation and services remains critical. It is imperative that the Government understand that future care needs will not be met without appropriate funding. "We welcome the increase in pension payments for older Australians. Unfortunately the extra cash will not go a long way towards providing optimum care at a place and time of their choosing."

Consumer Groups have supported the aged care industry's call for major reform.

Acting CEO of the Council of the Ageing (COTA) Over 50s Ian Yates: "The Budget has not dealt with reform on aged care in line with growing recommendations from Government's own advisers including the Productivity Commission and the Health and Hospitals Reform Commission."

"We will need urgent action in the coming months to make the aged care system sustainable in the next decade."

For Further Information

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