



Media Release

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Directing consumer care

Aged and Community Services Australia (ACSA) has welcomed the Government's trial of consumer directed care as an important step towards providing new options for the care and support of older Australians.

ACSA CEO Greg Mundy said the allocation of 500 places under the program would provide a strong basis for assessment and future direction.

"Community and residential care providers are already well versed in the care and support of older people but too often they are hampered in their ability to provide flexible services," he said.

"This trial will allow for greater ingenuity and create a framework for providers to enhance their service options."

Mr Mundy said while consumers were demanding greater choice and access to services which meet their needs, there was not an agreed definition of consumer directed care to guide regulation and funding.

"There are a range of interpretations on how funding should be directed and the scope of service delivery.

"To help clarify the issues, ACSA has developed a position paper outlining guiding principles for a broader adoption of consumer directed care.

"As Australia inevitably moves towards greater consumer involvement in how and where aged care is provided, ACSA has undertaken to collaborate with key consumer bodies and the government to ensure consumer directed care is a genuine option for older people."

Mr Mundy said a comprehensive evaluation of the program must involve consumers and service organisations.

"If a more extensive program of consumer directed care is to proceed involvement of all stakeholders is essential to ensure an effective and efficient model."

The position paper is available at www.agedcare.org.au

Media contact: Chris Hornsey 0419 513 432