



## Media Release

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### Ageing Population is Old News

The forecast growth in the numbers of older Australians contained in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Intergenerational Report released today should come as no surprise to the Government, according to Aged and Community Services Australia (ACSA).

ACSA CEO Greg Mundy said the aged care sector has long been warning of the need to revamp our system for the care and support of unprecedented numbers of older people.

“The Intergenerational Report is a welcome reminder,” Mr Mundy said. “The Report’s status gives credence to our push for major reform, which is critical if we are to have any hope of meeting the diverse needs of a whole generation aged over 65.”

“Getting aged care right is a vital component of the overall health reform agenda.”

“Catering for the accommodation and care needs of older Australians must be a major feature of the Government’s broad agenda to manage the future of our country. This must be seen as a positive challenge to provide more flexible and integrated services to meet these needs and not as an onerous task.”

“The Aged Care sector is currently contending with serious funding issues, over regulation, and in some parts of Australia including many rural and remote communities, a major shortfall in services and accommodation.”

“Some of these issues can and should be addressed in the short term to ensure a sound footing for future reform, much of which is directly linked to the recommendations made by the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission.

“We have the answers, we need a Government and a society willing to address these issues and have a real conversation about aged care, one which has a positive focus.

“Comments today by the Minister for Health and Ageing Nicola Roxon and the Minister for Ageing Justine Elliot that the Government is committed to sustainable, high quality aged care are heartening. However, we still await news on how the Government is ‘building a modern aged care system that will help meet the challenges of our ageing population’.”

“CEO of the Australian Industry Group Heather Ridout has warned that the next apology to Australians will be made to people in nursing homes if we fail to properly prepare for the future. We agree but would extend the comment to apply to all older people who need care.”

“We also agree with the Treasurer that we can’t sit on our hands or play political games if we to have a sustainable future, and that includes aged care.”

Taking steps now will reduce the need for even harder decisions in the future.

**Greg Mundy, CEO, 0416 203 065**