

**14 March, 2018**

## **ACSA welcomes consultation on aged care workforce skills and planning**

Aged & Community Services Australia welcomes the formation of the Industry Reference Committee as the first major announcement of the Aged Care Workforce Strategy Taskforce.

ACSA CEO, Pat Sparrow, said the Committee's focus on developing the competencies and skills needed by the workforce is vital for the future health of the sector and the quality of care for older Australians.

"Aged care providers have a huge challenge ahead when it comes to meeting the growing care needs of our ageing population. A big part of tackling the problem is developing practical, industry-lead education and training for a new generation of aged care workers," said Ms. Sparrow.

The consultation work of the Committee, which includes the views of workers, providers and consumer advocates, will make a significant contribution as part of the overall workforce strategy.

"Training and education is a big part of getting workforce planning right, and the organisation looks forward to consulting with the Committee on this area of critical need.

"ACSA will bring the views of provider-members to the Committee's work, and ensure the views of providers and their workforce needs are well-understood in the discussion.

"Getting this right now, means securing the sort of workforce the sector needs into the future with the right mix of skills in those areas of most need."

The 12-member workforce taskforce (of which ACSA CEO Pat Sparrow is a member) is due to report to the Minister by June 30, 2018.

~ENDS~

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