

19 June, 2018

ACSA urges young Australians to aspire to a career in aged care

Aged & Community Services Australia urges young Australians to aspire to a career in aged care - one of the country's fastest growing industries and one that offers a high degree of job satisfaction in caring for elderly Australians, following the Prime Minister's comments in Question Time today.

"If young Australians aspire to a job that offers the rewards of genuine human care and contact as well as the bonus of a high degree of reliability in demand for their work into the future, then we urge them to aspire to a career in aged care," said ACSA CEO Pat Sparrow.

Contrary to the views expressed in Parliament today, the aged care industry is made up largely of individuals who gain huge personal satisfaction from their efforts working tirelessly to improve the lives of older Australians, Ms. Sparrow said.

According to HESTA's recent report on the aged care workforce, aged care employees overwhelmingly expressed their views of how rewarding a career caring for older Australians can be.

Drawing on the experiences and opinions of more than 200,000 members working in health and community services, the majority (77 per cent) of those surveyed indicated that they intend to work in the sector for the long term.

"Aged care employees spoke of how rewarding they found caring for Australia's elders — of special moments shared, of wanting to make a difference, or simply the power of being there to listen," HESTA CEO Debby Blakey said in the report. "It's this human connection that lies at the heart of retaining valuable, experienced employees and attracting the new entrants to the industry."

Ms. Sparrow said huge growth in demand for aged care workers is another compelling reason for young Australians to consider a career in aged care.

The industry faces a shortage of staff over coming decades with the number of aged care workers required to grow from 360,000 currently to around one million between now and 2050.

The sector is also one of the country's fastest growing employers with latest data from employment group SEEK showing jobs in community services & development was the second-strongest area of job ad growth in the year to April, 2018.

Jobs in Community Services & Development saw a 49 per cent year-on-year jump in job ads to April, 2018, second only to the mining, resources and energy sectors (62 per cent rise in the same period.)

ACSA is the peak body for Australia's not-for-profit, church, charitable and community-based aged care providers.

The survey found the key occupation driving growth in Community Services is Aged and Disability Support, which makes up 33 per cent of the new job ads in April 2018 versus April 2017.

“High demand for aged care workers is a stand-out feature of our labour market and will be one of the most durable trends in employment in coming decades,” said Ms. Sparrow.

“If young Australians want to be part of one of the country’s few genuine growth industries, and an industry that is integral to individuals, families and communities in all areas of the country, rural or metropolitan, then we urge them to consider a career in aged care.”

To read HESTA’s report, ‘[Transforming Aged Care – reimagining the aged care workforce of tomorrow](https://www.hesta.com.au/transformingagedcare)’, see: <https://www.hesta.com.au/transformingagedcare>

To read the latest SEEK employment report, see: <https://www.seek.com.au/about/news/job-growth-boosted-by-community-services-and-healthcare>

~ENDS~

Media contacts:

Emily Parkinson, Media Manager: 0420 390 031