

ACSA Election Statement

Five urgent aged care priorities

Not-for-profit aged care providers are feeling positive that the national conversation the Aged Care Royal Commission has created will help achieve real outcomes in the next term of Parliament, regardless of who forms government.

But the political parties can't use the Royal Commission as an excuse to delay urgent reform. There are practical solutions that we can act on now to give older Australians better support and address sustainability issues confronting providers in delivering care.

ACSA is asking all political parties to commit to 'Five Urgent Priorities for Aged Care'. We have practical and urgent ideas now and they don't need to wait for the Royal Commission's recommendations to take action.



- 1** Extend the short-term 9.5% funding injection into residential care, tied to investing in staffing, training and other workforce matters based on local and organisational needs, until the Royal Commission's broader recommendations can be implemented.



- 2** Urgent boost of 40,000 level 3 and 4 Home Care Packages (in 2019-20) that is the main cause of the backlog in waiting lists and is forcing people into hospital or residential care prematurely.



- 3** Keep rural and regional Australians in their communities by increasing the rural and remote supplement by \$10 per day.



- 4** Address the oral health crisis in aged care with MBS provider numbers for dental hygienists or oral health therapists to prevent dental issues progressing into more serious medical issues.



- 5** Bring forward the 30% increase to the homeless supplement so that it is fully realised in the 2019/2020 year.

The Royal Commission has kick started the kind of big community discussion we need in order to respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by our ageing nation.

The issues facing aged care are complex and we need to find the answers together. This is the responsibility of everyone: providers, government and families.

ACSA is seeking the response of all political parties to these urgent priorities.