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ACSA Calls on Government to Improve Sustainability of Sector, Invest in Home Care

The peak body for not-for-profit aged care providers, Aged & Community Services Australia, used its pre-Budget submission to urge the Government to consider funding reforms to improve access and sustainability in the sector, including releasing more home care packages.

With more than 100,000 older Australians currently waiting to access vital home care services, ACSA Chief Executive, Pat Sparrow, said processes to improve equity of access to aged care services, whether home-based or residential care, should be a priority for government:

“There’s an unacceptably high number of older Australians without the appropriate level of home care – either those on a lower level package than they have been approved to receive, or the many still waiting to access home care services for the first time.”

“More must be done to ensure the appropriate package is allocated in a timely way to those needing essential services,” said Ms. Sparrow, who also called for changes to the current allocation process as one of the 21 recommendations ACSA put to government in its pre-Budget submission.

“ACSA’s view is that the Government could immediately alleviate some of this pressure in the system by implementing a number of key recommendations of the Legislated Review 2017, including funding additional level 3 and 4 packages.

“More can be done to ensure the many older Australians waiting for home care are able to access the services they require.”

ACSA has also urged the government to consider funding initiatives to ensure the industry’s sustainability into the future as it seeks to provide for the care needs of Australia’s rapidly ageing population:

“Funding decisions must consider the need to migrate the aged care sector to a more sustainable and stable footing into the future,” said Ms. Sparrow. “That is why we are calling on government to entertain the recommendations of the Legislated Review 2017 asking those who can contribute more to the cost of their care to do so.”

“Stable financing arrangements are required with the rapid ageing of Australia’s population. Now is the time for government to be having an important conversation with the community about their expectations of care, and how that care can be afforded into the future.

ACSA’s 2018-19 Pre-Budget submission also made a number of recommendations to improve equity of access for older Australians to aged care services and supports, particularly in regional and remote areas.

~ENDS~

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