

# Royal Commission Media Coverage

2 March 2021

The Final Report of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety was released on Monday 1 March 2021, entitled **Care, Dignity and Respect**.

Over the course of two years, the Royal Commission has heard many stories and accounts from providers, staff, consumers, families, academics, and experts about both the aged care sector’s triumphs and its failings.

These stories have captured much public attention and there will be an expectation from the Australian community that we as providers respond positively to the Royal Commission’s recommendations, and Government responds quickly to recommendations directed at it.

ACSA has compiled the following summary of media coverage surrounding the final report.

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## ACSA's media presence

### **Tuesday 2 March 2021**

- The Australian: [Call for transformation, not tinkering](#)
- The Daily Telegraph: Op-Ed – Patricia Sparrow, [Opportunity from crisis](#)
- The Daily Telegraph: Split over funding no excuse for delay
- NT News: [Aged care royal commission: Elderly Australians starved, assaulted in nursing homes](#)
- Sky News: [There is 'full focus' for older Australians 'to get the services they need and deserve'](#)
- ABC News 24: interview with ACSA CEO, Patricia Sparrow
- ABC RN Breakfast: [The high cost of caring: Aged Care Royal Commission report released](#)
- Ben Fordham Live, 2GB: interview with ACSA CEO, Patricia Sparrow

### **Monday 1 March 2021**

- Australian Aged Care Collaboration media release: [Royal Commission provides opportunity to 'fix' the aged care system for ever](#)
- ACSA media statement: [Aged care commission 'split' isn't over the need for a total overhaul](#)
- The Australian: [Aged-care split over reforms](#)
- The Australian Live Blog: [ACSA CEO: Complete overhaul needed](#)
- ABC Blog: [Commissioners' split highlights 'complexity of the public policy issue'](#)
- ABC News: [Aged care royal commission's recommendations must be adopted in full, advocates say](#)
- The Guardian: [Australia's aged care system needs massive investment, damning royal commission report finds](#)
- Sydney Morning Herald: [Government open to Medicare levy increase to fix aged care](#)
- Sydney Morning Herald: ['Weak and ineffective' regulation: Government cost-cutting slammed in damning aged care report](#)
- The Canberra Times: [Systemic aged care flaws: royal commission](#)

### **Friday 26 February 2021**

- Australian Aged Care Collaboration media release: [Aged care needs big picture reforms out of the Royal Commission](#)
- The Australian: [The fix is in for 'broken' aged care as royal commission report delivered](#)
- The Canberra Times: [Govt handed aged care inquiry final report](#)
- Herald Sun: [Aged Care Commission: Why Cairns providers are under pressure](#)

## Overall media reporting

As expected, the reporting largely focuses on the main report recommendations, the contrasting views of the two Royal Commissioners, and the top-line industry response.

Most newspapers are running front-page stories, editorials, op-eds and case studies throughout their editions.

- The Australian and Australian Financial Review are focused on funding and the mechanics of how reform will work.
- NewsCorp tabloids are all about the ‘horrors’ of abuse and neglect in the system, and tend to blame providers.
- Nine (Fairfax) papers put the onus more on the Government to fix the system.

## Individual newspapers

### The Australian

- Focuses on the 'split' between Royal Commissioners and the lack of a clear path ahead for reform.
- Spotlight on taxpayer levy.
- Floats the idea of an extra \$20bn needed to fix the system.
- Editorial focuses on the main points from the RC report and that a tax hike is the most probable way to fund.



## Australian Financial Review (AFR)

- Focuses on the 'split' between Royal Commissioners.
- Spotlight on funding options and the economic modelling that forecasts government spending would need to increase to between \$117 billion and \$131 billion in today's dollars.
- Editorial takes the view that 'user pays' is the answer, not higher taxes.



**Mark Carnegie Why I'm lovin' bitcoin and crypto**

# FINANCIAL REVIEW

Tuesday, 2 March 2021

## RBA puts heat on ASX over trading monopoly failures

**Reserve Bank Governor Philip Lowe has warned ASX that its trading monopoly is under scrutiny.**

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## PM mulls aged care tax

**Scott Morrison is considering a new aged care tax to fund the expansion of the aged care system.**

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## Jobs, housing and profits lift GDP estimates

**Strong economic growth is expected for the first half of 2021.**

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## Sydney Morning Herald / The Age

- Focus on Government's responsibility to fix the system.
- Spotlight on palliative care, \$10/day increase for basic care and nutrition.
- The Age – Op-ed by Sean Rooney, LASA.
- SMH Op-ed by Joe Ibrahim – who calls the report 'underwhelming'.



**The Sydney Morning Herald**  
 INDEPENDENT. ALWAYS.  
 Thursday, March 2, 2017 \$3.60 per copy

**Golden Globes**  
Fonda, Fey lead diversity pitch

**We're too meek on Myanmar**  
LET'S NOT WORRY  
PETER HARTCHER  
COMMENT PAGE 20

**Grow, cook, shop and eat locally**  
@goodfood

**Only the government can repair the damage: report**  
**'Step up on aged care'**

**Morrison refuses to open rape inquiry**

**Extra \$10 a day per resident**

**A solid start for a revolution**

**Long battle to ease pain**  
 Sydney nurse Jocelyn Hoffman has pushed for better palliative care and welcomed the royal commission recommendations. **NEWS PAGE 7**

**Key director to quit Nine board**

**Housing surge forces rates rise onto agenda**

**PM refuses to open rape inquiry**

**Nine board upheaval as ex-Fairfax director quits**

**Being back at school is very different for Billy.**

**SPONSOR AN AUSTRALIAN CHILD TODAY.**



**THE AGE**  
 INDEPENDENT. ALWAYS.  
 Thursday, March 2, 2017 \$3.60 per copy

**DON'T WRITE HIM OFF YET**  
 Foreigner 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000

**Star rating system recommended** **Medicare levy rise mooted** **\$432m cash boost**

**'Step up' on aged care fix**

**A solid start, but spare the platitudes**

**Meal budget of \$10 a day**

**PM refuses to open rape inquiry**

**Nine board upheaval as ex-Fairfax director quits**

**Being back at school is very different for Billy.**

**SPONSOR AN AUSTRALIAN CHILD TODAY.**

## ABC Online

- [What the split between royal commissioners means for the future of aged care](#)
- Points out that across 148 recommendations, there were 43 points of disagreement between the two commissioners

Daily Telegraph / Herald Sun

- Focus on the ‘horrors’ of abuse and neglect.
- Daily Telegraph & Herald Sun – Op-ed by Patricia Sparrow, ACSA CEO. [Click here to read](#)
- Daily Telegraph editorial blames providers for the ‘heartbreaking treatment’ of the elderly.
- Herald Sun editorial is much more considered, argues that reform must begin with respect for the older person.



# Opportunity from crisis

The Royal Commission into aged care should provide a springboard to meaningful improvement

I have taken 20 years and 20 inquiries to get to this point but yesterday's Royal Commission report into Aged Care Quality and Safety must bring about real change that fixes aged care for good.

The report is a critical watershed moment in Australia's quest for a fair and just system that gives older people the care and choice they need and deserve.

The Royal Commission has illustrated some appalling examples where individuals or aged care services failed in their duty to provide safe and quality care for older Australians.

These failings are unacceptable, and we are deeply sorry for the harm they have caused.

In an industry employing more than 360,000 people, caring for 1.3 million people, there will always be isolated examples of those who do not always maintain the highest of standards.

The people who work in aged care are passionate about what they do. They develop deep and personal bonds with residents and their families and go above and beyond to help and serve their communities.

However, the sector is in crisis. Staff are overworked and underpaid, residents need additional support and we need more home care.

We have seen first hand how structurally flawed the current system is. Our 1000 member organisations are at the frontline of the aged care sector, delivering 70 per cent of aged care services to 1.3 million Australians.

Nevertheless, more than

16,000 vulnerable Australians died in 2017-2018 alone, while waiting for a government-subsidised support package in their own home.

Nearly 100,000 people are waiting for a home care package at the approved level – with those in need of the highest-level packages typically waiting at least 12 months.

And the pressures are building. Over the next 10 years 88,000 places will be required in communal Residential Aged care at a cost of \$55 billion.

More than 78,000 extra workers must be found in the next 10 years to manage our elderly. We want to be able to employ more staff who are better paid and better trained.

We can only employ more staff and deliver more home care if the funding enables us to do so.

As it stands, Australia spends \$26 billion a year on aged care, \$21 billion of which is in the form of government-subsidised care, and the remainder funded by individuals themselves.

The inescapable fact is that Australia spends less than half of what comparable countries do on aged care, as a 1.2 per cent of GDP versus an OECD average of 2.5 per cent. This prompts the question of what sort of aged care system do Australians want for our parents and grandparents, our uncles and aunts?

The funding squeeze helps explain why 64 per cent of communal residential aged care homes operated at a loss in 2020, almost double the medium-term average of 31 per cent.

We welcome the Government's commitment to invest \$300m for residential providers to provide stability and the \$90m Viability Fund to assist those facing challenges.

But if Australians want a world-

**People who work in aged care are passionate about what they do. They develop deep and personal bonds with residents and their families and go above and beyond to help and serve**



# Report into aged-care flaws must be the last

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The funding squeeze helps explain why 64 per cent of communal residential aged care homes operated at a loss in 2020, almost double the medium-term average of 31 per cent.

We welcome the government's commitment to invest \$300m for residential providers to provide stability and maintain services in the short term, and the \$90m Viability Fund to assist those facing challenges.

But if Australians want a world-class system that delivers the care and services older people need and deserve, we need to overhaul the design, objectives, regulation and resourcing of the current framework.

The royal commission has now set the challenge. As providers, we stand ready to play our part. It is now over to the Prime Minister and his government to drive the significant reforms that will set up Australia for our ageing population.

The challenges will intensify in the years ahead. More than 41 million Australians, or almost 16 per cent of the population, are currently aged over 65. By 2052, that will rise to 8.8 million, or 22 per cent of the population, and by 2097 will reach 12.8 million people, or one in four Australians.

Older people must be front and centre in everything we do, from human rights-based legislation, to employing more staff, and supporting more people in their own

**PATRICIA SPARROW IS CEO OF AGED & COMMUNITY SERVICES AUSTRALIA AND REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AUSTRALIAN AGED CARE COLLABORATION**



## Political & Industry Responses

### Political Parties

- Australian Government: [Respect, Care and Dignity: Aged Care Royal Commission, \\$425M immediate response](#)
- Australian Labor Party, Anthony Albanese & Claire O’Neil: [Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety final report](#)
- The Greens, Adam Bandt & Rachel Siewert: [Morrison spins Aged Care Royal Commission but avoids the big issue – privatization has failed](#)
- Independent Member for Clark, Andrew Wilkie: [A Statement on the Age Care Royal Commission](#)

### Industry Advocates & Peaks

- ACSA: [Aged care commission ‘split’ isn’t over the need for a total overhaul](#)
- Australian Aged Care Collaboration: [Royal Commission provides opportunity to ‘fix’ the aged care system for ever](#)
- Anglicare Australia: [Royal Commission shows aged care reform is urgent](#)
- Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU): [Aged Care Royal Commission report released, makes 148 recommendations to improve sector](#)
- Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA): [Aged care reforms must not be put in ‘too-hard’ basket](#)
- Australian Human Rights Commission: [Statement on the Aged Care Royal Commission report](#)
- Australian Medical Association (AMA): [Care can’t wait – AMA welcomes final aged care report](#)
- Australian Nursing and Midwifery Foundation (ANMF): [A plan for ‘care, dignity and respect’ for older Australians](#)
- Catholic Health Australia (CHA): [Catholic sector urges Morrison Govt to look at key areas in Aged Care Royal Commission Report](#)
- Combined Pensioners & Superannuants Association (CSPA): [Stopping aged care neglect can’t wait until the May Budget](#)
- Combined Pensioners & Superannuants Association (CSPA): [Pensioners respond to Government’s response to Aged Care Royal Commission’s final report](#)
- Council on the Ageing (COTA): [Royal Commission clear – get cracking on major overhaul of aged care](#)
- Dementia Australia: [Commissioners have listened to people impacted by dementia – now will the government act?](#)
- Dietitians Australia: [Aged Care Royal Commission Final Report flags food and nutrition for immediate attention](#)
- EveryAge Counts: [Royal Commission misses chance to end ageism in aged care](#)
- Health Services Union (HSU): [No more excuses – time to change aged care](#)
- Leading Age Services Australia (LASA): [Aged care failures unacceptable: LASA sorry for harm, Royal Commission report must lead to major changes](#)

- Mental Health Australia: [Mental health concerns among the most common in Aged Care Royal Commission](#)
- National Seniors Australia: [Time for a new age in aged care](#)
- Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN): [Royal Commission backs significant reform that puts older people's rights first](#)
- Palliative Care Australia (PCA): [Royal Commission's call for greater investment in palliative care a significant first step](#)
- Pharmacy Guild of Australia: [Aged care report aligns with Pharmacy Guild commitment](#)
- Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP): [Psychiatrists support aged care report's call for person-centred care](#)
- UnitingCare Australia: [It's all about the people: older people, families, workers must be centre of aged care reform](#)