

November 1, 2017

ACSA CEO Pat Sparrow appointed to Minister's aged care workforce taskforce

Aged & Community Services Australia will play a key role in shaping the future aged care sector workforce strategy through the appointment of Pat Sparrow, chief executive of Aged & Community Services Australia to the new aged care workforce taskforce announced today by the Minister for Aged Care, Ken Wyatt.

As CEO of ACSA, Ms. Sparrow will join individual service providers, academics, consumer and health officials on the 12-member taskforce, developing a strategy to boost the supply of aged care workers in a sector facing a critical shortage of staff between now and 2050.

"I'm looking forward to working with this expert panel on what is one of the most pressing issues for the sector into the future," said Ms. Sparrow. "Together, we have the opportunity to apply the very best thinking in the sector to solve critical issues around workforce supply, demand and productivity to get this right for the future care needs of older Australians."

"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."

"As we work through the issues, I'll be representing providers' views as we develop a workforce strategy that reflects a strong shared understanding of the workforce needs of the future and who is responsible for meeting them."

Minister Wyatt in his release today outlined the need to dramatically boost the number of aged care workers from 360,000 currently to around one million by 2050.

"Workforce issues are vital to the quality ongoing care of older Australians," he said.

The workforce taskforce is due to report to the Minister by June 30, 2018.

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