

**September 3, 2017**

## **ACSA to work with government to protect older Australians from `flu**

Aged & Community Services Australia will work with the Government to ensure as many older Australians as possible are protected from the spread of influenza.

“We extend our sympathies to those grieving families who have lost loved ones due to influenza this Winter,” said Pat Sparrow, chief executive of Aged & Community Services Australia. “We understand community concerns about the spread of flu, particularly amongst older Australians living in aged care facilities, and want to see as many residents and staff as possible protected.”

Aged care providers already proactively encourage staff to be immunised by offering paid-for or subsidised immunisation programs, adhering to Guidelines issued by State Departments of Health to safeguard residents and staff.

“We understand that vaccination alone does not prevent the spread of infectious diseases and other prevention measures are important,” said Pat Sparrow. “Common sense plays a part and, in the context of a close community environment such as a residential aged care facility, the most important thing is to stay away from a facility if you are unwell – something that applies to families, visitors, staff, indeed - anyone coming into contact with older Australians particularly vulnerable to the spread of infection.”

“As the peak body for not-for-profit aged care providers, we look forward to working closely with the government to implement prevention measures that will protect as many residents and staff as possible.”

~ENDS~

### **Media contacts:**

Emily Parkinson  
Media Manager  
0420 390 031