



22 June 2016

Senator Xenophon to call for Senate Inquiry into aged care funding

Not-for-profit aged care provider peak body Aged & Community Services Australia (ACSA) backs Senator Xenophon's call for a Senate Inquiry into aged care funding to get to the bottom of the significant cuts announced in the 2016/17 Budget which would impact on the frailest residents.

Senator Xenophon has also stated he would oppose the proposed 2016/17 Federal Budget cuts to aged care funding.

"The Senator's support to oppose the measures offers a life line to aged care providers, who are extremely concerned about what the cuts will mean for those frail older residents with high needs in their care," Aged & Community Services SA&NT CEO Melissa Centofanti said.

"The Senator understands that real reform is essential when we are talking about funding the care and support of frail older Australians when they need it most, and a proper examination of how much it actually costs to deliver care is essential.

"An examination of aged care funding and a model for sustainable funding would allow the sector the opportunity to have a real long term plan for stability and growth - both of which are lacking in the current environment - where sudden and unannounced cuts to funding are causing instability in the sector and for those we care for.

"This election is a real chance for all parties to support measures to ensure Australia has the best aged care system in the world. It's time for the care and support of older Australians to be a national priority."

The announcement by Senator Xenophon is being made at AnglicareSA's All Hallows facility, 56 Monmouth Rd, Westbourne Park, 22 June 11am SA time (11.30am AEST).

AnglicareSA CEO, the Rev'd Peter Sandeman said the proposed cuts would have devastating impacts on those in aged care and is supporting the call for a Senate inquiry.

"The government and opposition are proposing cutting care for the most vulnerable in aged care," Rev'd Sandeman said.

"The immediate impact will be reduced complex health care for those who need it most. There will be less money to help residents with medication and relief of chronic pain.

"The cuts will place even greater pressure on our stressed public hospital systems with older people occupying beds because the complex health care they need won't be available in residential aged care facilities.

"They will also mean aged care providers will find it very difficult to provide the same levels of care prior to the cuts. I ask the government and opposition to reverse these cruel cuts."

For more on ACSA's *Old, frail and Invisible* Federal Election campaign and what the cuts will mean for elderly Australians in our care visit:

www.agedcare.org.au/acsa-federal-campaign

www.facebook.com/ACSACampaign2016

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