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ACSA welcomes Queensland Government's announcement aimed at reducing hospital admissions for older people

Peak body Aged & Community Services Australia (ACSA) has welcomed the Queensland Government's initiative to improve the quality of healthcare to older people with the aim of also reducing hospital admissions.

Older Queenslanders will be supported to receive healthcare in their homes rather than going to hospital, giving them better health outcomes and quality of life, from an announcement today from Minister for Health, Hon Steven Miles.

ACSA CEO, Ms Pat Sparrow said, "It is pleasing to see that this initiative recognises that many older Australians live in residential aged care, and that as residents they too should have access to quality health care.

"We welcome the proposed increase of clinicians with geriatric skills to residential aged care facilities, increased staff training of aged peoples' care needs in Emergency Departments and the expansion of models of care to reduce age-related complications in hospital.

"Older people staying healthy and independent longer is good for everyone. This is best achieved through partnership with governments, collaborating with the aged care sector access both residential and home care," said Ms Sparrow.

Building this capability is crucial to ensuring equal access and quality care for older Australians. It will also help to address the service and financial pressures facing acute health.

Ms Sparrow called on all state and territory governments to consider similar initiatives in their jurisdictions.

"We should all be responsible for ensuring we have a sustainable system that provides people with a high quality of care, dignity and respect," she concluded.

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