

UnitingCare Australia supports aged care investment and urges action on accommodation funding reform

UnitingCare Australia welcomes the Government's aged care announcements to invest in residential bed supply and improve the categorisation of home care, and the release of the Independent Review of Residential Aged Care Accommodation Pricing.

"Today has delivered significant developments in the aged care sector, and we welcome the Government's commitment to improve care and support for older Australians," said Tamara Thomas, National Director of UnitingCare Australia.

The Government has announced a \$3 billion investment to expand the supply of residential aged care beds and change the treatment of personal care services under the Support at Home Program, measures UnitingCare Australia considers a positive commitment toward building a more responsive aged care system.

UnitingCare Australia also strongly welcomes the early release of the Independent Review of Residential Aged Care Accommodation Pricing.

"The Review provides an important, evidence-based foundation for understanding the true costs of delivering quality care and what is needed to secure a financially sustainable aged care system into the future," Ms Thomas said.

"The findings highlight a stark reality: Australia's aged care infrastructure will need to grow rapidly to meet demand as our population ages, whether the system is ready or not," said Michael Elias, Chief Executive of Clayton Church Homes.

To meet anticipated need, the report notes the sector will be required to deliver an additional 10,600 residential aged care places every year for the next 20 years, placing significant pressure on providers, particularly those caring for people with limited financial means.

UnitingCare Australia will be closely watching for the Government's response to the Review, including through upcoming Budget decisions, and trusts its recommendations are carefully considered as part of broader aged care reform.

"We are committed to working closely with Government to ensure the funding settings support a sustainable aged care system, so providers can meet future demand and older people can live with dignity, regardless of their financial circumstances."

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About UnitingCare Australia

UnitingCare Australia is the national body for the Uniting Church's community services network and an agency of the Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia. Through advocacy and by strengthening service provision, UnitingCare Australia gives voice to the Uniting Church's commitment to social justice.

The UnitingCare Network is the largest network of social service providers in Australia, delivering 5.8 million interactions annually across 1,600 service locations in urban, rural, and remote communities, with over 55,000 staff and 17,000 volunteers.

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