

# Media Release

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## AGED CARE PLACE ALLOCATIONS REINFORCE NEED FOR REFORM

Aged and Community Services Australia (ACSA) said today's announcement of the allocation of aged care places reinforces the pressing need for aged care reform to commence in 2012.

"Today's announcement by the Minister of 1,724 new community care places and 7,933 new residential places (2,534 fewer than advertised) falls well short of even the Department's estimation of new beds and new investment to meet demand in the future," Rob Hankins ACSA National President said.

"Some 10,493 residential aged care beds were available in this round of allocations. However, only 7,933 bed licenses have been allocated because residential places were under-subscribed.

"The allocation of 1,724 community care places, slightly above the number available, indicates a strong and continuing demand for care in the community.

Mr Hankins said a start on longer-term solutions for aged care reform are urgently needed.

"The Government has said that aged care is a second term priority and we look forward to action on the Productivity Commission's recommendations from the Report *Caring for Older Australians* in the 2012/13 Budget," Mr Hankins said.

"An aged care system which provides all older people with the choice of community or residential aged care services when they need them is based on having quality sustainable aged care services available across the country and into the future.

"The PC's recommendations are a blueprint for providing choice and quality care which strikes the right balance between individual responsibility, affordability for taxpayers and a safety net for those who need it."

By 2050, over 3.5 million older Australians will need to access aged care services each year compared with more than 1 million now.

"For the 2012-13 Federal Budget, a start needs to be made on the reforms that are critical for real change to occur and to respond to community expectations. It is equally important for the Opposition to support these reforms," Mr Hankins said.

There is widespread support across aged care providers, consumer groups, unions and health care professionals for the broad shape of the PC's reforms. These groups are working closely through the National Aged Care Alliance (NACA) to ensure that reform becomes a reality.

Link to the **ACSA Budget Submission**:

<http://www.agedcare.org.au/news/2011-news/acsas-budget-submission-for-2012-13-federal-budget>

*Aged and Community Services Australia is the national peak body for aged and community care providers representing faith based, charitable and community-based organisations who provide residential and community care services, housing and supported accommodation to over 1 million older people, younger people with a disability and their carers. ACSA, the six State and Territory Associations and over 1,100 organisations together make up the ACSA Federation.*

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