



MEDIA RELEASE

AGED CARE FINANCIAL STRESS

Aged Care Association Australia (ACAA) has called on the Federal Government in its 2009-10 budget submission to significantly reform the aged care funding scheme.

ACAA CEO, Rod Young said, "reform is essential if Government is to avoid significant decline in future capacity."

"With a projected trebling of demand for services over the next thirty year and a current infrastructure investment of \$1.5B per annum, it is essential that the current system is reformed to enable the industry to continue to invest," said Mr Young.

"These are not short term issues. From initial concept to a fully functioning residential care facility, it can take five to seven years; which means system sustainability is essential," said Mr Young.

The ACAA budget submission among other things called on the Federal Government to:

- uncap the daily accommodation charge for high income older people and increase it for those on medium income so that it is equivalent to the average previous year bond. This measure has no cost to Government; and
- provide real choice to older Australians who want to pay an upfront refundable deposit for their high care accommodation. This measure has no cost to Government; and

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- link Government payments for concessional residents to the average modern bed cost. This measure is estimated to have a cost to Government of \$422M.
- if the above steps occur then Aged Care Assessment Teams (ACATs) assessments should apply to entry into care not to level of care.

ACAA represents over one thousand providers of seniors housing, retirement living, community care and residential care services nationally.

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