



Aged Care Association Australia

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Aged Care Industry welcomes Infection Control Collaboration

Aged Care Association Australia (ACAA) today welcomed the announcement by Minister for Ageing, Hon Justine Elliot MP, for States and Territories to work collaboratively with the aged care industry and the Commonwealth Government to review practices and procedures surrounding infection control and to ensure best practice standards are being utilised.

Rod Young, ACAA CEO, said "though aged care providers are already very active in ensuring staff comply with best practice; given the consequences of gastroenteritis outbreaks in an aged care facility, any evidence based improvements the industry can incorporate into existing practices will be supported and implemented."

"Considerable work is already occurring between the aged care industry and state/territory authorities responsible for public health, infection control and food handling practices," said Mr Young.

"The Ministers announcement is welcomed by the aged care industry as improved outcomes may be possible with better consistency between the Commonwealth funded program and State and Territory health authorities," said Mr Young.

"Every day, across Australia, our members are highly involved in actually managing infection control.

"But this is also a broad public health issue."

ACAA welcomed the focus on what was an important public health issue, where the community could be educated about how easy it was to spread infection.

"Most of the time, we understand that infections are unknowingly taken into a facility," Mr Young said.

"It would be a great outcome, if we could improve public knowledge."

For further media enquiries, please call Rod Young, 0419 624178.