



MEDIA RELEASE

NEW AGED CARE PLACES RELEASED

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Aged Care Association Australia (ACAA) welcomed the release of the 2010 Aged Care Approvals Round nearly ten months after applications were called in early 2010.

ACAA though welcoming the release of the 2010 allocations also noted the alarming decline in the number of residential allocations in most states and territories.

'This decline reaffirms the industry position that the current capital structure for the industry is inadequate particularly for nursing homes, unless cross subsidized by other residents in hostels and extra services who contribute towards their accommodation through lump sum contributions,' said Mr Young, ACAA CEO.

'At a time when the Department of Health and Ageing has stated the industry needs to build 82,000 new places at an estimated cost of \$17B by 2020, it is alarming that aged care providers have not applied in sufficient numbers to fill the places available for allocation,' said Rod Young.

'This also raises the issue of the methodology of planning aged care place allocations in Australia. With 33,000 places now in the pipeline and many providers being unwilling to invest especially in areas with high vacancy levels, the whole process of the existing centrally controlled allocation process is under considerable scrutiny.'

'Fortunately, the Productivity Commission will include this matter in their report on the Aged Care industry which is due 21 January 2011,' Mr Young said.

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