

MEDIA RELEASE

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Coalition aged care policy a boost for older Australians

The Campaign for Care of Older Australians (CCOA) has hailed the Coalition's aged care policy as a positive initiative to maintain services and develop urgently needed residential facilities.

"The Coalition's commitment to restore the 1.75 per cent care subsidy (CAP) for residential care is particularly significant," CCOA said.

"Aged care providers have urged the restoration of this subsidy and its extension to community care - following its removal by the Government - to ensure that quality services can be maintained

"The current subsidy does not come close to matching the rising costs of providing care and services. The extra subsidy is essential to sustain services in the lead up to major reforms which the current Productivity Commission Inquiry will propose. This is an important Inquiry and it's good to see that Mr Abbott has committed to support it.

"The \$335 million incentive for providers to convert bed licences to operational places will be a boost especially in areas with existing bed shortages, provided local governments support their development.

"We commend the idea of a four year industry agreement to focus on cutting red tape and addressing staff shortages as part of a plan to provide an effective and efficient system of care and support older people need now and into the future.

"The collective expertise of government departments and industry representatives can only advance the provision of optimum services to meet the needs of our ageing population with more choice and improved access as part of a properly funded system.

"Other policy initiatives including funding for convalescent care and programs to address dementia and enhance older people's well being and quality of life, are necessary for a comprehensive agenda for reform.

"We await the Government's announcement of its intentions for caring for older Australians."

The Grand Plan, a new vision for caring for older Australians, is available at www.thegrandplan.com.au

CCOA comprises the peak bodies and national service providers of residential and community based aged care services.

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