



MEDIA RELEASE

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CATHOLIC HOMES WELCOME ADDITIONAL COVID SUPPORT

The peak body representing the Catholic aged care sector welcomes the latest announcement of more government funding to help residential aged care providers combat the spread of COVID-19 among the most vulnerable in our community.

Today Catholic Health Australia, whose members operate more than one in ten aged care homes, said the \$205 million one-off payment to offset the cost of containing COVID in homes will be warmly welcomed by aged care providers.

CHA Chief Executive Officer Pat Garcia said residential aged care providers would appreciate the help defraying the significant costs that they have been absorbing since the outbreak of the pandemic.

“Our members do appreciate the support for the sector shown by the Prime Minister and Aged Care Minister Richard Colbeck. They are listening to those people who every day are doing their best to keep their residents and staff safe.

“The cost of keeping residents safe while maintaining contact with family and friends is significant, so we ask the Government to continue to keep an open mind on sector support depending on how the control of the spread of COVID-19 develops.”

These costs include: employing a full time person on the front desk to manage visitor screening and scheduling; backfilling isolating staff; purchasing new technology; putting on additional staff to manage social distancing within the residential home; maintaining social engagement with additional services and activities; all the while facilitating connectivity with families who choose not to visit.

Mr Garcia said the latest support payment, which comes off the back of the release today of a new draft code for visitations in homes, showed how well government and the sector were working together.

“We look forward to working together with the Government and the consumer peak bodies to finalise the draft code so we can get the balance right in providing good quality, compassionate care alongside appropriate protections for aged care residents.”

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