



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **CATHOLIC SECTOR WELCOMES ADDITIONAL AGED CARE SUPPORT**

The largest non-government grouping of aged care services in Australia, Catholic Health Australia (CHA), welcomes the additional investment of \$563.3 million to help aged care providers to continue responding to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

“Aged care providers are doing all they can to protect aged care workers and older Australians in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.” CHA Chief Executive Mr Pat Garcia said.

“The extra funding announced yesterday is welcomed as it will allow residential aged care providers across Australia to maintain the reinforced levels of safety and care to those most at risk from COVID-19.

“The specific funding available to providers within hotspots is supported, but we must ensure that this is extended to other regions as it is needed.”

Mr Garcia said that Catholic Health Australia also supports the continuation of funding that recognises the added costs in rural and remote areas, and for people facing homelessness.

The funding is largely consistent with the immediate COVID-19 recommendations that CHA put forward in its pre-budget submission. However, there are some gaps, including the need for additional support for home care providers who are also facing increased costs to protect their clients from COVID-19.

CHA has also outlined a series of measures to alleviate the financial pressures being faced by the aged care sector in its [pre-budget submission](#) which it says could immediately be adopted by the Government.

Mr Garcia added: “I want to thank Minister Colbeck for the additional support this package provides the sector. It will go some way towards protecting aged care workers and the people they care for. I look forward to working with the Commonwealth to start the transition to a better system - one that will provide all older Australians with timely access to the high quality aged care and support services they deserve.”

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