



MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 11 May 2021

CATHOLIC HEALTH AUSTRALIA WELCOMES AGED CARE PACKAGE – LEGACY DEFINING MOMENT

Catholic Health Australia has welcomed the Federal Government's formal response to the Royal Commission in Aged Care calling the \$17.7 billion package a landmark moment for older Australians.

CHA is part of the Australian Aged Care Collaboration (AACC), which represents more than 1,000 providers, which tonight congratulates the Government on accepting 126 of the Royal Commission's 148 recommendations.

After 20 government reviews in 20 years, this Budget, and the government's response to the Royal Commission's recommendations, finally addressed many of the challenges facing aged care.

CHA said the suite of measures will enable more Australians to be cared for in their home, increase the number of care minutes and provide more training for carers and the incentives for them to stay.

CHA CEO Pat Garcia said: "This is a landmark moment for older Australians. In the last 12 months, aged care has exploded onto the public consciousness because of the COVID pandemic, the findings of the aged care Royal Commission and the Aged Care Collaboration's 50,000 petitioners across the country.

"The budget announcement is a welcome recognition of the community's changing priorities and a legacy defining moment for the Morrison government."

Mr Garcia said the aged care sector was ready to work with Government to implement these reforms immediately. "These are large commitments, and we urge the Government to deliver on the timetable for reform."

CHA is one of the largest grouping of non-government aged care service providers with 25,000 residential aged care beds and 28,000 home care package consumers. Its members include Mercy Health, St Vincent's, Villa Maria Catholic Homes, OzCare, the Southern Cross Care network and Catholic Healthcare.

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