



**Aged & Community Services
SA & NT Inc**

Media Release

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Aged care facilities left out in the cold

Australia's aged care facilities have been left out in the cold by the Federal Government's derisory insulation and solar power rebates under the Energy Efficient Homes scheme, Aged and Community Services SA & NT (ACS) CEO Alan Graham said today.

"Six months ago the Minister for Ageing, Justine Elliot, urged nursing homes and hostel operators to apply for the rebates," Mr Graham said.

"The Minister at the time enthusiastically stated that *'insulation will increase comfort for residents and save nursing home operators' money, as well as helping tackle climate change'*.

"However, it transpired that these facilities were entitled to the same rebate that applies to a single dwelling. When challenged on the obvious inadequacy of the rebate, the Minister promised a review and consultation.

"Now, after six months of waiting for the issue to be resolved, we have learned there is to be no change. The news did not come from the Minister or her office, or even the Department of Health and Ageing but in answer to the association's query to the Department on the status of the rebate.

"The Department's website now advises that *'nursing homes and hostels can apply for insulation assistance of up to \$1,000 per dwelling'*. That is \$1,000 per facility. Nothing has changed and no one even thought to advise us.

"This is not only offensive to older Australians living in aged care facilities, but insulting to aged care providers who are trying to do their bit to tackle climate change.

"Aged care facilities are home for more than 170,000 Australians (16,000 in South Australia) and there is no discernable reason why they should be denied the same entitlements that apply to everyone else. Arguably they deserve it.

"Minister Elliot may believe it is acceptable to run *'hot and cold'* on aged care issues but for older Australians the heat and cold they feel are very real.

Why can't aged care facilities receive a real insulation rebate Minister Elliot?"

ACS SA & NT represents the majority of community care, residential care and retirement housing organisations that provide aged care services to an estimated 100,000 older South Australians and Northern Territorians, their carers and families. ACS SA & NT has more than 130 members providing over 600 separate services.

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