



Aged & Community Services
SA & NT Inc

Media Release

February 2009

Aged and Community Services 2009–2010 Budget Submission

Aged & Community Services SA & NT (ACS) has called upon the State Government to work with aged care providers in SA to create a sustainable aged care sector in their submission to the 2009-2010 Budget.

‘Given the projections known about the future SA population, addressing the needs of a rapidly ageing population is an imperative for any State Government’ commented Alan Graham, Chief Executive Officer of ACS.

The ACS submission to the 2009-2010 Budget outlines a number of initiatives in three priority areas:

- **Equipment and assistive technology** – specialised equipment and assistive technology benefit older people and the workforce, enabling older people to continue living as independently as possible and maximising their quality of life.
- **Reduction of environmental impact** – energy and water usage are high in residential facilities because they are occupied 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year. The aged care sector recognises the importance of these issues in a broader community context, but does not have the financial capacity to undertake the necessary modifications without some assistance.
- **Health and wellbeing** –
 - (a) **Health Care:** many older people are healthy (albeit frail) and the health care system only impacts on their lives for particular episodes of care. Health provision therefore needs to move away from reactive health care for older people to focus on health promotion, restoration and rehabilitation.
 - (b) **Oral Care:** considerable evidence worldwide confirms that good oral health assists the general wellbeing of an individual. Older people deserve and need to be able to eat and talk comfortably, be happy with their appearance, stay pain-free and maintain self-esteem in their oral hygiene and care.

‘These issues affect the provision of effective and appropriate services to the ageing population and warrant immediate attention by the Government’, said Mr Graham. In total, State Government expenditure for addressing the initiatives outlined in the submission is less than \$10 million, a minimal outlay which could achieve significant benefits for older South Australians.

Mr Graham said that ACS would welcome the opportunity to work with the SA Government to implement the initiatives. ‘Non-Government aged care providers in SA have a wealth of expertise in “hot-housing” innovative aged and community care initiatives and a long history of working in partnership both with each other and with Governments’, he commented.

**Media comment: Alan Graham, CEO, Aged & Community Services SA&NT Inc
8338 7111 or mobile 0408 231 047**