



Aged & Community Services
SA & NT Inc

Media Release

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Budget ignores older South Australians

South Australia's budget has once again failed the older members of our community, despite long overdue measures providing land tax relief to for-profit aged care providers.

“What is really concerning is the lack of longer-term vision when we know we are a rapidly ageing community” commented CEO of Aged and Community Services SA & NT, Alan Graham. “The State Government cannot continue to hide behind a position that passes responsibility to the Federal arena.”

“Apart from the land tax relief measure (SA was the last State jurisdiction to tax for-profit aged care facilities), there is not a single State-funded initiative of any significance in this budget to enhance the wellbeing of older South Australians or provide support to those organisations providing services,” Mr Graham added.

Earlier this year, Aged and Community Services released its *Partnering with State Government* document to widespread acclaim from both within and outside government. It argued for a series of integrated measures as a starting point for a whole-of-government approach.

It sought amongst other things:

- to develop a coordinated equipment provision program for people with disability, to create an ongoing ‘future fund’ to assist maintenance and future purchases;
- increased funding to support the existing “Better Oral Health Program” in residential care and portable dental equipment for aged care facilities;
- expanded funding to facilitate house modifications; and
- a proposal to establish a modest program to assist residential aged care providers reduce their environmental impact.

“What this budget does is confirm what those in the sector already know: that our ageing population's needs are not being taken seriously,” Mr Graham said. “A measure of the level of regard is the fact that the current State Strategic Plan doesn't even address the single biggest social and health issue facing the nation – the ageing population – and we have the oldest population in the country.”

We need to do better and our older South Australians deserve it.

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