

Media Release

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A Vision for Aged and Community Care in SA

The not-for-profit aged care sector in South Australia has articulated its views on a vision for aged and community care in SA in a new document released today.

Aged and Community Services SA & NT Inc (ACS) Chief Executive Officer, Alan Graham, advised that the document *Partnering with State Government: A Vision for Aged and Community Care in SA* aims to enhance discussion on matters that affect, both directly and indirectly, older South Australians. Mr Graham commented that "Like all documents of this type, it presents a perspective at a given point in time. We hope to stimulate debate and engender thinking around good public policy development."

In preparing the Vision document, ACS consulted with a number of other industry groups and peak bodies to gain their perspectives on issues relating to aged care. It covers ten important areas, making suggestions regarding policy imperatives and advocating for a practical approach to a number of longstanding concerns, including:

- **Workforce:** a well-trained, valued workforce supported by flexible job design and innovative technology, appropriately remunerated
- **Equipment and assistive technology:** sufficient resourcing and coordinated effort to support older people needing specialist equipment and technology
- **Health care:** promoting the wellbeing of older people through services which support health promotion, recovery, restoration, rehabilitation and oral health
- **Housing and community connectedness:** developing a variety of affordable, innovative and suitable housing options
- Well-resourced programs and services for **family carers**
- Recognition of **older people with diverse needs**; appropriate models of service for **rural and remote** areas; and sufficient resourcing for **palliative care**

SA currently has the oldest population of all states and territories in Australia, with 11.1 percent of the SA population 70 years or over (compared to 9.3 percent of the population nationally); and 7.7 percent of the SA population 80 years or over (compared to 6.2 percent nationally). CEO, Alan Graham commented that "Historically, the state has a reputation for being innovative and creative in the social policy arena. In our view, the ageing population provides an opportunity for SA to lead the nation in this important policy area."

ACS has provided copies of the Vision document to State parliamentarians and key State Government Department officials to encourage discussion on developing appropriate policies for older South Australians. The Vision document is available on the ACS website www.agedcommunity.asn.au or by phoning 8338 7111.

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