



Aged & Community Services  
SA & NT Inc

## Media Release

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### **The Challenge: Make SA Australia's most 'age friendly' state**

The CEO of Aged and Community Services SA&NT (ACS), Alan Graham, has called upon the State Government to collaborate with the aged and community care sector to make South Australia the most 'age-friendly' state in the nation.

"The State Government needs to recognise the importance of expanding the role of the sector to ensure we provide the necessary diverse and innovative services that maintain, restore and improve the quality of life of older South Australians," said Mr Graham. "It is imperative we think about the older members of our community as an untapped resource rather than a hindrance".

"With one of the highest percentages of people aged 65 and over in the country, South Australia's ageing population brings with it unique characteristics that challenge the planning and delivery of services.

"The increased risk of chronic disease, dementia and disability among older South Australians makes it crucial for Government and non-government agencies to improve collaboration to provide services and healthcare costs effectively.

"ACS is well established to provide insight and analysis to develop programs that improve both quality and efficiency," Mr Graham said.

ACS has forwarded a comprehensive 2010 State Election Issues and Recommendations document focusing on four key areas: the health and ageing interface; workforce development; equipment and assistive technology; and planning and transport.

"New initiatives must recognise that healthy ageing is primarily about enabling older South Australians to be valued members of society who contribute to the growth of the community," said Mr Graham.

Recommendations in the ACS SA & NT State Election document include:

- Evolving aged care programs to focus on health promotion, restoration and rehabilitation;
- Developing and implementing evidence-based strategies to attract and retain staff in the aged and community care workforce;



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- Expanding programs aimed at coordinating equipment, assistive technology and home modification provision;
- Developing strategies to enable innovation in the planning and design of age-friendly built environments.

A copy of the ACS SA & NT State Election document is available on the website [www.agedcommunity.asn.au](http://www.agedcommunity.asn.au)

*Aged and Community Services SA & NT Inc (ACS) is the peak body providing strategic leadership to 95% of the not-for-profit aged and community sector in South Australia and members in the Northern Territory.*

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