



Aged & Community Services
SA & NT Inc

Media Release

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Senate Report vindicates aged care concerns

The CEO of Aged and Community Services SA&NT (ACS), Alan Graham, has welcomed findings of the Senate Inquiry into residential and community aged care.

“There are two things of utmost importance regarding the findings in the report. In the first instance it vindicates what the sector has been saying about a range of things that are adversely affecting our performance,” Mr Graham said “but what is equally telling is that it has received bi-partisan political support.”

“All Senators have acknowledged that the sector is under financial pressure, that there is unnecessary red tape, that serious workforce issues need to be addressed, better planning is needed and that the current annual indexation formula is inadequate,” he said.

The report advocates for an all-encompassing review of aged care services and the establishment of an aged care forum. ACS supports these recommendations but urges the Government to move quickly to set up both initiatives.

“The Senate report is effectively a ‘wake up’ call for the Government and what needs to be remembered is that this problem isn’t going to go away given our ageing population,” he added.

ACS, which represents smaller providers in regional South Australia and the Northern Territory, also welcomed the recommendations focusing on the special circumstances of rural and remote providers, in particular the effectiveness of the current viability supplement to support service provision.

“The Senate report provides an opportunity for the Government and the industry to create a new vision for aged care and we encourage Minister Elliot to lead the debate,” Mr Graham concluded.

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