

**8 July 2010****ANGLICARE: A GRAND FAN OF THE GRAND PLAN**

Following the appearance of John Safran and Father Bob Maguire on the 7pm Project about *The Grand Plan* last night, Anglicare Australia has pointed to the campaign as evidence that improving aged care is important to all Australians.

*The Grand Plan* is a serious policy proposition and community awareness campaign designed to raise awareness about the needs of older, grand Australians. Anglicare Australia is one of eleven peak bodies and faith-based service providers that make up the Campaign for Care of Older Australians Group who have launched the campaign nationally.

“John Safran and Father Bob Maguire are our high profile fans of *The Grand Plan*.” Sandra Hills, aged care spokesperson for Anglicare Australia said today.

“Australians from around the country are also getting on board because they want the grand people in their lives to have better access to the care they need.

“We are aware there is action in the government pipeline to support aged care, but we are concerned that the major political parties aren’t aware just how serious that reform needs to be.

“Anglicare Australia would like our major parties to say how they will proceed with major aged care reform and how, if they form government, they plan to work with the aged care sector to work out how to do it.

“Action needs to be taken including for example, the creation of one community care program to provide a range of flexible funding levels to meet individual, and changing, client needs. This would create savings rather than incur additional cost.

“Of course, major reform along these lines will take some time to put in place. But in the meantime, a commitment from the major parties to cover the immediate increase in costs being faced in both residential and community care would be a great bi-partisan step forward.

“This is *The Grand Plan* to ensure aging Australians can find the care they need when they need it. And it’s a plan that needs to start now. With more and more people of all ages and backgrounds supporting *The Grand Plan*, we’d like to see our major political parties join in too,” Ms Hills said.

Anglicare Australia encourages you to get your family, friends and politicians talking about *The Grand Plan*. To become a Grand Fan visit [www.thegrandplan.com.au](http://www.thegrandplan.com.au) then follow the steps to send a post card to your favourite Grand person and an email to their local MP to let them know your Grand person lives in their electorate. You can also become a friend of *The Grand Plan* on Facebook page or follow *The Grand Plan* on Twitter.

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