

MEDIA RELEASE

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Aged care remote in rural areas

Living in rural and remote areas has many benefits but for older people it can mean long delays for assistance and support in their own homes because of distant links to services; it can mean moving away from a supportive community for appropriate residential care because there is nowhere local.

While aged care providers do all they can with limited resources, the widespread issues of inadequate access and choice of properly funded aged care services are often magnified for older people living outside major metropolitan centres.

Difficulties attracting aged care workers, the additional expense of transporting supplies and long distance travel to reach small numbers of people are daily challenges which have an impact on services.

To address the problems confronting aged care, The Campaign for Care of Older Australians (CCOA) has launched a new vision - **The Grand Plan**.

“Older people everywhere deserve care and support which meets their needs,” CCOA said.

“The aged care industry, which exists to help them make the most of each day, is in urgent need of reform.

“The Productivity Commission inquiry into aged care is a significant step in the right direction, but the Commission’s findings and recommendations will not be delivered for almost 12 months.

“CCOA has called on all political parties to make a public commitment to act on The Grand Plan proposals for reform including immediate steps to ensure aged care services can deliver critical care and support now.

“Older people should not be disadvantaged, regardless of where they live.”

CCOA said the Productivity Commission’s consultations outside metropolitan areas were vital to ensure rural and remote issues were properly canvassed.

For more information including the Grand Plan policy visit www.thegrandplan.com.au

CCOA comprises the peak bodies and national service providers of residential and community based aged care services.

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Aged & Community Services Australia, Aged Care Association Australia, Anglicare Australia, Baptist Care Australia, Catholic Health Australia, Churches of Christ Living Care, Sir Moses Montefiore Jewish Homes, Lutheran Aged Care Australia, The Salvation Army Aged Care Plus, The National Presbyterian Aged Care Network, UnitingCare Australia