

MEDIA RELEASE

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Aged care polices Greener on the other side

The Campaign for Care of Older Australians (CCOA) congratulates Greens Senator Rachel Siewert on her support for urgent action on aged care issues.

“The Senator’s strong grasp of the problems facing aged care services and the impact they are having on older Australians is very welcome,” CCOA said.

“To date, both major parties have failed to acknowledge the fundamental issues which have to be addressed. Resourcing levels can’t wait until the Productivity Commission releases its recommendations on reforms for the sector.

“Meanwhile, Senator Siewert has clearly identified the current funding gap in care subsidies.

“CCOA has been calling for the immediate reinstatement of the 1.75 per cent additional subsidy for residential care and an extension to community care services, to make up the shortfall in funding.

“The current subsidy of 1.7 per cent simply doesn’t match the cost of providing care and services evidenced by the rise in all the cost of living indicators.

“CCOA’s policy on aged care reforms recommends an independent cost of care study to establish an effective structure but in the interim funding has to be readjusted within the current system.”

The Grand Plan policy outlines the state of aged care services in Australia and proposes short and long term actions for change on the premise that all older Australians deserve to live in comfort, with dignity and independence.

“If we are to have an aged care system that effectively supports our ageing population we need to keep the current services afloat.

“The release of the Greens’ aged care policy is eagerly anticipated as is their support when a new government is formed.”

The Grand Plan, a new vision for caring for older Australians, is available at 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