

National Aged Care Alliance - Coalition commitment a positive but falls well short of the \$2 billion required in aged care:

The Alliance says the Coalition's \$250 million aged care package with 2,000 more transition care places for older Australians leaving hospital, 1,000 additional community care packages and double the current capital funding for nursing homes will assist in solving the overall pressures on the public health system.

The package is a first step toward improving aged care, but it falls well short of the \$2 billion the Alliance estimates is required to adequately address the problems within aged care.

Members of the Alliance agree that politicians must set the bar higher for aged care because older Australians have served this country well and they deserve the best possible care.

Ian Yates, spokesperson for the Alliance said; "Keeping older people healthier, treating their health problems in their communities where they live and avoiding hospitalisation are essential factors in alleviating the current crisis that is facing our public hospitals. But this is not a remedy for the crisis situation facing the future of aged care."

The Alliance identifies key areas in addressing the needs of the aged care system in their political score card (attached) and recommends an investment of \$2 billion for the aged care system over the next three years:

The Alliance recommends:

- additional residential and transitional care, including hospital in the home and programs in residential aged care that will reduce hospital admissions of older people;
- community and residential care subsidies that keep pace with increasing costs of care;
- an increase in the number of care packages to support people living at home;
- wages and working conditions comparable with the acute health care sector for all staff working in aged care;
- increased funding for Aged Care Assessment Teams to provide an improved and more timely service to older people;
- enhanced access to primary care for older people, including those with dementia; and
- extra support services for carers and families.

The Alliance's federal election platform is also available at www.naca.asn.au

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National Aged Care Alliance Election Scorecard

This scorecard refers to the political parties' election commitments to aged care and scores them against the top priorities of the National Aged Care Alliance.

www.naca.asn.au

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Key:

- 0** **no commitment**
- 1** **commitments that partially meet the alliance's priorities**
- 2** **commitments that fully meet the alliance's priorities**

Parties	ALP	Coalition
Health Funding		
<i>Ensure fair and equitable access for all older Australians to the full range of health services</i>		
1. Prevent unnecessary hospital admissions	1	1
2. Access for all to dental care	2	1
3. Fund transport through Australian Health Care Agreements	0	0
4. Continue Dementia as a National Health Priority	2	2
Residential Aged Care		
<i>Residential aged care services should be modern efficient, safe and sensitive to cultural and environmental factors. Funding must reflect the full costs of care</i>		
5. Solutions to long term capital needs	2	1
6. End short changing of care funding – pay the care costs in full	0	0
7. Increased funding for primary health care delivery	1	1
Community Care		
<i>Community services provide the means for older people to live at home longer with maximum independence and well being</i>		
8. More and better funded care packages	0	1
9. Better support services for carers and families	1	1
Workforce		
<i>Quality aged care, both residential and in community, can not be achieved without a skilled and qualified workforce which is funded, rewarded and valued</i>		
10. Competitive wages and conditions for all staff in aged care	0	0
Technology		
<i>Integrated communication technology infrastructure is essential to effective health services</i>		
11. Fund sustainable integrated information technology and staff training	0	0
Current commitment to aged care	9/22	7/22

The ALP has committed to: primary care clinics – “super GP clinics”; a health reform commission; \$158m for transitional care beds; dental care scheme; retain dementia as national health priority; \$300m low interest loans for infrastructure costs to provide an additional 2,500 beds; reform of the residential aged care planning and allocation arrangements including a review of planning ratios; and a commitment to assisting carers through the “making ends meet” initiative.

The Coalition has committed to: funding for practice nurses to visit the elderly in their homes; \$117 million for 2,000 more transitional care beds; limited access to dental care for people with chronic illnesses; retain dementia as national health priority; increased aged care capital grants by \$46 million over 4 years; \$86 million for 1,000 extra community care places; and extra financial support for carers.