



# Aged Care Queensland Conference

## 19 March 2010

# Today's News – Tomorrow's Opportunities

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## AGED CARE INDUSTRY COUNCIL

Peak Council of Australia's Aged Care Providers



# 2010 – 2011

# Federal Budget Submission



# Indexation

- Indexation methodology
- Pending the formulation of the new methodology
- CPI
- All Groups Pension & Beneficiary Living Cost Index





# Capital

- Choice for older people
- Remove distinction between high and low care
- Uncapping the daily accommodation charge
- Linking Government payments
- Allowing providers to charge differential room rates





# Community Care

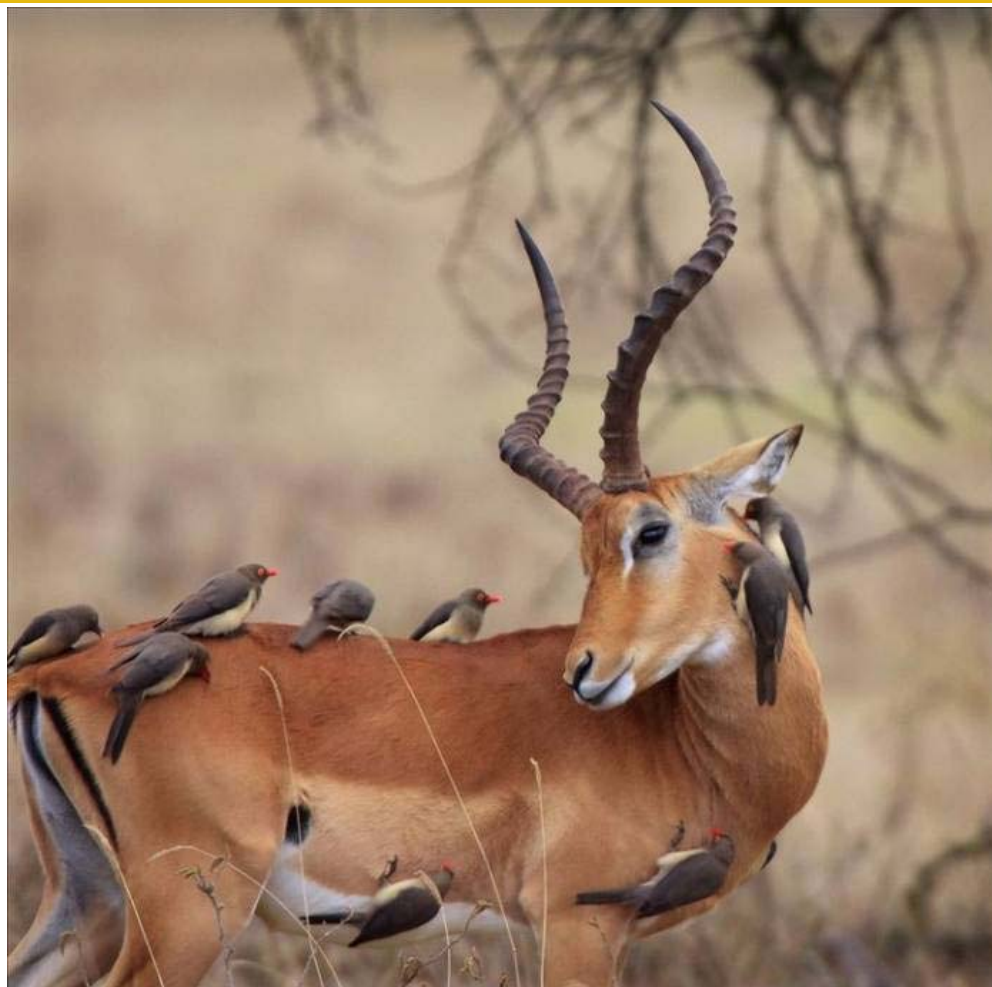
- Add HACCC increase of 20%
- Add packaged care increase of 10%
- Recommend one community care program





# Workforce

- National Pilot Trial of Teaching Nursing Homes







# Information Technology

- Electronic Medication Management



*"Nurse, get on the internet, go to SURGERY.COM, scroll down and click on the 'Are you totally lost?' icon."*





# Since starting the campaign...

## A few things have changed...

Productivity Commission *Annual Review of Regulatory Burdens on Business: Social and Economic Infrastructure Services* released 16 September 2009 recommends:

- removing the restriction on bonds as a source of funding
- redesigning the accreditation visits program
- increasing choice for aged care consumers by relaxing supply constraints in the provision of aged care services
- providing better information to older people and their families so they can make more meaningful comparisons in choosing an aged care service



# Since starting the campaign...

## A few more things have changed...

Recommendation 2.1: *"To enable the Australian Government to reduce the burden associated with regulation and price controls, and to improve the quality and diversity of aged care services, it should explore options:*

- for relaxing supply constraints in the provision of aged care service*
- for allowing consumers' needs and preferences to be better understood and addressed*
- for providing better information to older people and their families so they can make more meaningful comparisons in choosing an aged care service*

The Government's response accepts this recommendation in principle and refers it to the Productivity Commission inquiry, stating that the inquiry "will enable the Commission to consider the underlying objectives of this recommendation in more detail, and provide specific recommendations on how to implement them".



# Since starting the campaign...

## A few more things have changed...

PC Recommendation 2.2: *"The Australian Government should explore options for removing the regulatory restrictions on bonds as a source of funding."*

The Government's response notes this recommendation. In the past, there has been a Swift outright rejection by Government of any such proposal, so this is a step forward.

As with Recommendation 2.1, the Government's response refers this recommendation to the Productivity Commission using the same terms as for Recommendation 2.1, and again referring to relevant NHHRC recommendations.



The positive developments mean...

The campaign seeks a commitment that the next government will act to implement change

...how can you help secure a change...



## What can you do?

Give 5 minutes of your time...

- Invite your Federal MP to visit - next week
  - Ask what will your party be doing to improve care choices of older Australians, sustainability of aged care services to meet need, and ensure the needs of those in socioeconomic disadvantage are met
- When you have Opposition candidates, go and see them and invite them to your organisation
- When did you last write a letter to your local newspaper?
- When did you last call a local radio station...have you ever called a local radio station?



## What can you do?

Give a tad more than 5 minutes of your time...

- Empower your residents, families, and staff to call their MPs and Opposition candidates
- In a few weeks, “log on” to the Campaign to access campaign advertising options
- Contact fellow providers in your area to suggest joint advocacy in your local area





Thank you