



THE HON JUSTINE ELLIOT MP

Minister for Ageing

MEDIA RELEASE

28 May 2010

\$140 MILLION FUNDING BOOST FOR AGED CARE SERVICES

From 1 July 2010, aged care providers will receive an annual funding boost of more than \$140 million through the annual indexation of the care subsidies paid by the Australian Government to residential, community and flexible care services.

Care subsidies will increase by an average of 1.7 per cent, increasing residential aged care subsidies and supplements by around \$120 million a year, and community and flexible care subsidies by about \$20 million a year.

The Rudd Government is committed to a sustainable aged care sector and to providing older Australians with access to high quality, accessible and affordable aged care. In 2010-11, expenditure on aged care services will increase to more than \$10.7 billion, an increase of nearly nine per cent over the previous year and nearly 30 per cent under the Rudd Government.

Over the next four years, Commonwealth subsidies and personal contributions from residents will average more than \$72,000 each for residents of aged care facilities. Over this period, the Government will provide more than \$47 billion in direct financial support.

Through the National Health and Hospitals Network, the Rudd Government is reforming Australia's aged care system to build a nationally consistent aged care system with more aged care places, one-stop shops to provide information and assessment, a more highly trained workforce, improved access to GP and primary health services and greater protections for older people in care.

These investments will support the integration of the aged care system with Local Hospital Networks to provide better health and better care for older Australians.

The Productivity Commission is conducting a comprehensive inquiry into Australia's future aged care needs and setting out a path for further structural reform so that Australia's aged care system is better equipped to meet future demand.

The Government is determined to get the hospital and aged care systems working together and to reform the aged care system to build a modern, sustainable system to provide better health and better care services for older Australians.

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