

Wednesday 24 January 2018

Government backs innovation in aged care

Leading Age Services Australia (LASA) CEO Sean Rooney welcomed the Turnbull Government's investment of \$400,000 over two years to support *innovAGEING* - a national innovation network for Australia's age services industry.

"This Government's support of *innovAGEING* will help ensure the age services industry is forward-thinking, high-performing and consumer-centric, bringing to market new products, services and delivery models that will meet the individual needs of older Australians and their families," Mr Rooney said.

"Our ageing population presents an innovation imperative for the age services industry. We need to accelerate innovation and collaboration in our industry to translate ideas into action, resulting in better outcomes for older Australians."

Mr Rooney said embracing innovation in aged care will further enable older Australians to retain their independence, giving them choice and control over the care, support and services they need and deserve.

"I congratulate Minister for Aged Care Ken Wyatt and the Turnbull Government on making this commitment," he said.

The purpose of the *innovAGEING* network is to facilitate, promote and celebrate innovation in aged care in Australia. This is achieved by *innovAGEING*:

- Establishing and facilitating a connected 'community of practice' for progressive thinkers, practitioners and innovators in the age services industry.
- Creating, capturing and sharing examples of age services innovation in Australia, and promote innovation within our industry and across the wider community.
- Celebrating, highlighting and elevating innovation in the age services industry through a major national awards program.

Mr Rooney said a national scale, collaborative approach to age services innovation is needed to respond to aged care reform, market opportunities, new technologies and changing consumer preferences.

"I encourage all providers of care and support in the age services industry, suppliers of products and services to the industry, relevant university centres and researchers, age services consumer groups, interested public sector agencies and investors to participate in the *innovAGEING* network," Mr Rooney said.

"*innovAGEING* will support our industry to leverage fresh thinking and the latest technology to provide real and lasting benefits for older Australians and is well aligned to the Turnbull Government's innovation agenda and aged care sector reform initiatives."

At today's announcement industry leader in innovation, IRT Group, revealed a revolutionary new driverless car designed for use in Kangara Waters Lifestyle and Care Community in Canberra.

Mr Rooney said the use of a driverless car in this setting is an example how *innovAGEING* outcomes could improve older Australians' independence and quality of life.

"IRT Group's driverless car will safely navigate private roads within IRT communities. Residents will be able to hail the car and travel independently to appointments and social activities within their community."

For more information and to register interest in participating in the *innovAGEING* network please visit, <https://lasa.asn.au/innovageing/>.

Contact: Ashley Oliver 0458 011 009 ashleyo@lasavictoria.asn.au

The voice of aged care
www.lasa.asn.au

Leading Age Services Australia
First floor, Andrew Arcade, 42 Giles St, Kingston ACT 2604
P: 02 6230 1676 | F: 02 6230 7085 | E: info@lasa.asn.au