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## **LASA's WA Care and Ageing Expo shows increasing willingness to plan ahead**

Leading Age Services Australia's (LASA) Care and Ageing Expo held on the 4 and 5 August at the Perth Exhibition and Convention Centre was a huge success attracting around 2,000 visitors (a 20 per cent increase on last year's Expo) and 80 exhibitors (a 33 per cent increase on last year's Expo).

LASA CEO Sean Rooney said the response to the Expo demonstrated that there is a thirst for knowledge in the wider community to better understand how to age well and how the aged care system can support this.

Mr Rooney said there is a growing desire for older Australians and their families and carers to to actively plan ahead.

"The Expo showcased the products, services, information and education available for the care and support of older Australians and their families and carers," Mr Rooney said.

"For 2,000 people to attend this event says to me that consumer-directed care is really taking hold in our industry and Australians are beginning to carefully consider their care options as they age."

Attendees heard from experts across a whole range of aged care issues such as choosing the right residential care, the future of home care, how to care for those with dementia, financial planning for older Australians and learn about the cyber-crime and safety for seniors and much more.

Mr Rooney said that aged care no longer refers just to nursing homes but refers to a 'continuum-of-care' service model.

"There are three main types of service choices: home care, residential aged care and retirement living, but hybrid and new innovative models are emerging linking these options," Mr Rooney said.

"Discussing aged care planning can be challenging and the aged care system can be complex and at times difficult to navigate. So we encourage the whole family to attend the Expo and make it a more common practice to consider care options well in advance."

Mr Rooney said one of the features of the Expo was the innovAGEING chat lounge – a showcase of the national innovation network for Australia's age services industry initiated by LASA last year.

"We need to accelerate innovation and collaboration in our industry to translate ideas into action, innovAGEING aims to help ensure the age services industry is forward-thinking, high performing and consumer-centric, with a variety of products, services and delivery models that will meet the individual needs of older Australians and their families."

Mr Rooney said it was a privilege for LASA to host the Care and Ageing Expo following the success of the inaugural expo last year.

"I thank all the exhibitors and sponsors for their support and we look forward to an even bigger and better event next year."

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