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Aged Care Industry Proactive on New Quality Standards

Leading Age Services Australia (LASA), the voice of aged care, has welcomed the Federal Government's new Aged Care Quality Standards which were legislated yesterday, saying its Members have been working for several months to successfully transition to the new single set of standards which take effect on 1 July next year.

The new standards, which replace the four previous sets of aged care standards, are centred on ensuring appropriate quality and safety standards are met in all service settings, whilst also protecting the rights of older Australians and ensuring responsibility and accountability for their care.

"LASA has been proactive in supporting our Members to transition effectively through webinars, masterclasses, presentations at regional forums and other Member engagements," said Chief Executive Officer Sean Rooney.

"Our Members have also been encouraged to conduct comprehensive self-assessment processes using our guidance materials as a measuring stick to self-assess their own performance against the organisational requirements.

Mr Rooney said while the standards will improve accountability and drive continuous improvement, there was still an immediate need to address critical funding issues to ensure providers are able to meet the needs of older Australians.

"Funding in residential aged care and home care services has not kept pace with demand and rising costs and must be addressed as a priority," he said.

"We again call on the Federal Government to urgently address residential care and home care financial pressures and to work with industry to explore sustainable and robust solutions to the longer term funding and operational business models.

Mr Rooney also welcomed the passing of legislation this week to establish the new Aged Care Safety and Quality Commission, saying LASA is committed to working with the Commission to ensure new standards of quality and safety in the age services industry are achieved.

About Leading Age Services Australia (LASA)

LASA is the national peak body representing and supporting providers of age services across residential care, home care and retirement living. Our purpose is to enable a high performing, respected, and sustainable age services industry delivering accessible, affordable, quality care and services for older Australians.

We represent providers of age services of all types and sizes located across Australia's metropolitan, regional and rural areas. Consistent with the overall industry profile, 57% of

our Members are not-for-profit providers, 33% are for-profit providers and 10% are government providers.

Our diverse and representative membership gives LASA the ability to speak with credibility and authority on issues of importance to older Australians and the age services industry.

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