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## Providers welcome MYEFO focus on caring for older Australians

Leading Age Services Australia (LASA) says today's Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO) is a step in the right direction for aged care but more support for older Australians and the age services industry is urgently needed.

The Government has announced more than \$550 million in extra funding for aged care, including:

- \$287.3 million over three years to bring forward the release of 10,000 home care places
- \$56.4 over four years to cut the maximum daily fees for some home care packages.
- \$111.2 million over four years for a 30 percent increase in the viability and homelessness supplements for residential aged care providers,
- \$90 million to support GPs visiting regional aged care facilities.

LASA CEO Sean Rooney says that the age services industry welcomes the Government's decision to make aged care funding a strategic priority in its Mid-Year-Economic and Fiscal Outlook.

"With a funding boost in MYEFO and strong statements at the ALP national conference over the weekend, it is clear that the need to provide adequate care and support for older Australians is an issue of national importance and will be a key issue in the lead up to the federal election.

"The funding to bring forward the release of extra home care places is welcome, but much more will be needed to assist the 126,732 older Australians currently on the home care waiting list.

"The focus on homelessness and helping regional residential aged care facilities is helpful, but industry has argued that a boost of \$675 million per year is needed to address the fact that almost half of all residential aged care providers are operating in deficit.

"The age services industry is committed to reform and is working with the Government and other stakeholders on a continuous improvement agenda, but adequate resourcing is needed to make the aged system better right now.

"Providing levels of funding that reflect the increasing costs and growing demand for age services is the only way we can guarantee a sustainable age services industry that meets the growing and changing needs of older Australians in all types of care settings. There is much more work to do if we are to realise this objective."

### 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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