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Cost of Care Study Underlines Need for Urgent Funding Action

Leading Age Services Australia (LASA), the voice of aged care, says the residential aged care Resource Utilisation Classification Study (RUCS) shows that urgent action is needed on appropriately resourcing the sector.

LASA Chief Executive Officer Sean Rooney says high needs care in residential care facilities has been hard hit by changes to Government funding arrangements in recent years, straining resources and resulting in an estimated 43 per cent of facilities reporting operating losses.

“This has been at a time of increasing frailty of older Australians entering residential aged care and growing numbers of older Australians seeking care and support in their own homes.

“LASA calls on the Government to take urgent action in the upcoming Budget to adequately resource providers of age services to meet the needs of the older Australians they care for and support.

“Our pre-Budget submission details a list of funding priorities, along with a range of measures to free up funding for age services without any cost to the Budget, alongside vital research required to drive reform in the sector, including optimal workforce models.

“Whilst the Royal Commission progresses with its important role, we must press on with making the aged care system better right now.

“This includes ensuring age services providers are adequately resourced to meet the needs of those they seek to care for and serve.”

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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