

11 February 2019

LASA Welcomes Commencement of Royal Commission into Aged Care

Leading Age Services Australia (LASA), the voice of aged care, has welcomed the commencement of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety in Adelaide today saying aged care is an issue of national importance that is too important not to get right.

Chief Executive Officer Sean Rooney says the aged care industry is fully supportive of the Royal Commission process.

“The safety of older Australians is not negotiable and any instance of failure of care is unacceptable.

“We all want a safe, high quality and high performing aged care system. Older Australians need it and older Australians deserve nothing less.”

Mr Rooney said he welcomed the intention of the Royal Commission to conduct hearings, roundtable discussions and extensive consultation around the country.

“It is vital that the Royal Commission be open and transparent and provide a forum for all involved in the aged care system to tell their stories with regard to their experiences.

“While the vast majority of Australia’s age services and their dedicated staff deliver good quality care, it is the responsibility of our industry, the Government and the wider community to ensure there are no exceptions.

“We must grasp this ‘once in a generation’ opportunity to make the aged care system better for all older Australians, now and into the future.

“Notwithstanding this, while the Royal Commission is underway, we must not lose sight of making the aged care system better right now, by addressing the key issues of access to services, funding of services, quality of services and supporting the workforce that delivers these services.”

The Royal Commission will hand down its interim report by the end of October, with the final report due in April 2020.

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.

Media Contact: David O'Sullivan Ph 0427 138 024 E davido@lasa.asn.au