

I CARE FOR AGED CARE

#FEDERALELECTION2019

A Vision for Ageing Well in Australia

Have you ever heard the laughter of a life fully lived?
Or been lost in the stories of someone who has travelled a million roads — and back?

We have.

Have you ever seen a person confined to a single room, whose only crime is to grow old?

We have.

Have you ever pondered why it is that being old is somehow being less?

We have.

In a world of youthful beauty, constant change and shortened use by dates, we have seen how the simple act of stopping to learn, listen to and help our community's older members, has for many, become too hard.

We seek to change that.

We are the people who have the privilege to care for our ageing and we believe, deeply, that access to good care must be easier and that the very notion of caring must change from reactive and daunting — to **proactive** and **inspiring**.

We **champion** the simple ethos of a life well lived.

We want to **inspire** people to **want to care**; not feel the burden of having to.

And we strive to **enable** people to **properly care** — for their neighbours, friends or family.

Above all, we exist to **enhance** life **through** care —
from the moment the smallest help is needed to the moment the final breath is taken.

As aged care professionals we choose to care;
everyday, for every type of human in every type of condition.

**Because ultimately, we believe how we care for our ageing
is a powerful reflection on who we are as a nation.**

(From the Aged Care Workforce Strategy: A unifying vision of care)



**LEADING AGE SERVICES
AUSTRALIA**
The voice of aged care



Why aged care matters

Aged care is an issue of national importance, with:

- 1.3 million older Australians receiving care or support
- 366,000 clinicians, care staff, support workers and administrators employed in age services
- 10,000+ services run by governments, private companies, local communities, small businesses and faith-based organisations
- Around \$18.6 billion in Australian Government funding + \$5.2 billion in consumer contributions spent on aged care each year



Why we are proud

Notwithstanding the issues we are trying to fix in the aged care system, we are proud that:

- A recent independent review (Carnell-Patterson) found the majority of older Australians receive a good standard of care from our aged care system
- Around 9 in 10 people are happy with the quality of their services or believe their services are well run
- Residential care hours are up 9 per cent per resident per day since 2014
- Our system accommodates the needs of older Australians from all walks of life including across remote, rural, regional and metropolitan locations



Why we are concerned

Funding for aged care has not kept pace with rising costs and the growing needs and changing expectations of older Australians:

- In residential care there is a financial emergency that risks compromising quality and continuity of care with an estimated 43 per cent of facilities making losses
- In home care it is unacceptable that more than 120,000 older Australians are unable to access the care they have been assessed as needing
- The number of home care services providers has nearly doubled to meet demand but there are limited new packages for them to deliver



What we need

To better meet the needs of older Australians and to create an aged care system that supports ageing well we need to:

1. Fix the funding emergency in residential care and commit to ensuring funding matches the measured costs of delivering high quality care
2. Fix the unacceptable impact on older Australians by legislating reasonable wait times for home care services
3. Invest in workforce growth and development
4. Have a Minister for older Australians and aged care in Cabinet and develop a comprehensive national 'ageing well' strategy