

10 May 2019

Aged care goes missing in Labor's costings – older Australians deserve action

Leading Age Services Australia (LASA), the voice of aged care, says the release of the Labor Party's policy costings today shows there is no vision for addressing the critical issues facing the sector that cares for 1.3 million older Australians.

LASA CEO Sean Rooney says with a forecast \$154 billion in savings over the next decade, Labor can fix the funding emergency in residential care, reduce the home care waiting list and invest in growing and developing the aged care workforce.

"While we welcome yesterday's announcement of \$100 million to expand access to culturally appropriate aged care facilities around Australia, it does not address the fundamental issues facing the sector as a whole.

"Making the system better should be a priority for all political parties and candidates, but so far we have seen only piecemeal announcements by both the major parties.

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

- fix the funding emergency in residential care and commit to ensuring funding meets the growing costs of delivering high quality care
- fix the unacceptable impact on older Australians by legislating maximum wait times of no more than three months for home care services
- invest in workforce growth and development
- have a minister for older Australians and aged care in Cabinet and develop a comprehensive national ageing well strategy

"LASA stands ready to work with the next government of Australia to ensure these issues are addressed as a priority to achieve a sustainable and world class aged care system."

Mr Rooney urged aged care providers, their staff, clients and local communities to take part in a national day of action on Tuesday 14 May to let their local candidates know that aged care is an issue of national importance.

Read more about the "*I Care for Aged Care*" campaign here: <https://lasa.asn.au/federal-election-2019/>

About Leading Age Services Australia (LASA)

The voice of aged care
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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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