



MEDIA RELEASE

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AGED CARE FUNDING INJECTION A PROMISING START, SAYS PEAK BODY CATHOLIC HEALTH AUSTRALIA

Australia's largest grouping of not-for-profit aged care services has welcomed a \$50 million government grant to help homes experiencing financial hardship.

The new Business Improvement Fund (BIF) will be available to the most under-threat aged care homes, allowing them to restructure or upgrade their operations.

Peak body Catholic Health Australia says it is an important step in fixing a broken system but a more sustainable funding model is needed across the industry to address the lengthy waiting lists for home care packages that are plaguing older Australians.

"We welcome any injection of funds into the aged care sector. This new fund will allow the most financially at risk businesses to restructure and upgrade their operations. We also support that it prioritises providers in rural and regional Australia, where more than 70 per cent of aged care homes are operating at a loss," said Pat Garcia, CEO of Catholic Health Australia.

"But, the reality is the aged care sector is in crisis and we need significant government funding."

The BIF will also help those businesses that are looking to close down in a structured way.

Mr Garcia said: "Imagine the chaos that would occur if a care home just closed down suddenly. This will mean that older Australians and their families will not be left high and dry.

"It will also mean that those operators who are operating poorly run homes, can move out of the sector and be replaced by those who can provide a service that older Australians truly deserve."

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