

Media Release

Wednesday, 24 September 2008



Assistance for Indigenous aged care welcome

Australia's leading aged care industry body today expressed broad support for the Australian Government's plans to improve the long term quality of aged care for indigenous communities.

Aged and Community Services Australia (ACSA) CEO Greg Mundy said: "We have been lobbying successive Federal Ministers over several years to pay more attention to indigenous aged care services"

"Indigenous aged care services face the challenges of operating in remote parts of Australia, without the infrastructure that most of us take for granted."

"Our members who currently provide services to indigenous older people have been significantly under resourced for many years. The funds to be provided under the Remote and Indigenous Service Support (RISS) program will be welcomed by these services."

"The availability of capital funding has been an outstanding need for some time and it is good that these needs can now start to be addressed."

"Developing workable and culturally appropriate quality standards is a significant challenge."

"Minister Elliot is right to stress the need for a balance between cultural sensitivity and the health and welfare of indigenous people. Indigenous service providers talk of the need to operate in two worlds if they are to be able to properly support the needs of older indigenous people. Assessing quality needs to take account of such factors."

"It will also be vitally important to involve indigenous communities in the planning of the proposed quality measures and to avoid one-size-fits all solutions."

"We have previously called for the resourcing of an authentic 'indigenous voice' on aged care, we believe this would assist Government to get it right in this area."

"ACSA welcomes progress in this area and we look forward to seeing results for older indigenous people."

ACSA represents over 1,100 church, charitable and community-based organisations providing housing, supported accommodation and community care services to around 700,000 older Australians, people with a disability and their carers.

For Further Information

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