



Margaret May MP

Shadow Minister for Ageing

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Rudd Backflips x 2
Older Australians an Afterthought

Margaret May, Shadow Minister for Ageing has questioned the Government's commitment to older Australians.

Margaret said: "Media reports suggest that elderly Australians have won a last minute Budget reprieve with the Prime Minister stepping in to guarantee \$120 million in nursing home funds.

"My question to the Rudd Government is why was a cut to aged care funding even on the table?

"It's a serious question that can't be allowed to go unanswered.

"It's now obvious the Government had every intention of putting the future care and wellbeing of older Australians at risk by cutting aged care funding in the Budget.

"The treatment of older Australians by this Government shows it up for what it is – a group of men and women who couldn't care a less about older Australians.

"To even consider a cut to aged funding is monstrous given that 40 per cent of aged care facilities are operating in the red.

"The Rudd Government may think it can get away with treating older Australians as an afterthought but its behaviour is starting to wear thin.

"First we had the fiasco with the pensioners' and carers' bonus, then we had the Minister for Ageing (the Hon Justine Elliot MP) announcing that it was her intention to change legislation to permit her to front up to aged care facilities unannounced; then we had the Minister announcing proposed legislative changes based on sensationalist media reports that she knew to be incorrect.

"Now we have the government back-peddalling at the eleventh hour on an aged care funding cut.

"If media reports are correct, the indexation is only to continue for one year which is totally inadequate given the pressure that aged care facilities are under.

“I, along with aged care providers and Aged Care Associations, have put a lot of pressure on the Government to continue with the indexation of the Conditional Adjustment Payment subsidy and one year’s further indexation will not address the challenges that aged care facilities are under.

“The Rudd Government has demonstrated over and over again that older Australians are not one of its priorities.

“I call on the general public to reflect on the Government’s treatment of older Australians. It speaks volumes about its lack of integrity and the character of the Rudd Government.

“The Government must lift its game if the future of older Australians is to be secured and I call on the Government to make older Australians a priority”, Mrs May said.

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