



The Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP
Minister for Aged Care
Minister for Indigenous Health
Member for Hasluck

Ref No: MC18-018193

Mayor David O'Loughlin
President
Australian Local Government Association
8 Geils Court
DEAKIN ACT 2600

Dear Mayor

Thank you for your correspondence of 2 August 2018 regarding the actions sought by the National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) in relation to aged care. I have responded to the NGA's resolutions arising from its June 2018 meeting, in turn, below.

Resolution 51 to 'hasten the release of aged care funding packages'

As part of the 2018-19 Budget, the Australian Government announced an increase in funding for aged care of \$5 billion over five years. This includes an additional 14,000 home care packages over the next four years, on top of the extra 6,000 announced in September 2017, for people with high level needs. This will mean that by 2021-22, more than 74,000 high level packages will be available nationally, an increase of over 80 per cent compared to 2017-18 levels. Whilst a person's wait time will continue to be determined by the time of approval and priority for care, on a national level this additional injection of packages will flow through to consumers at all levels shortly.

Resolution 52.1 to 'collaboratively develop relevant models of aged care for rural and remote communities'

The Government understands that aged care service providers in rural and remote Australia face greater challenges in delivering care. In recognition of these challenges, the Government has invested resources towards supporting consumers and service providers in these regions through innovations to programs, such as the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program and the Multi-Purpose Services Program. The Government provides financial support through a viability supplement and one-off innovation and capital grants through the Dementia and Aged Care Services Fund. The Government also provides professional support services to eligible aged care providers to build capacity and improve the quality of aged care services provided to consumers.

In recognition that further support is needed, in the 2018-19 Budget the Government announced a commitment of \$40 million for capital investment in regional, rural and remote aged care services. I would like to assure you that, as aged care reform continues, the Government will give thorough consideration to the impacts on rural and remote providers and how the unique challenges and issues faced in these regions are appropriately taken into account. Continued access to quality aged care in rural and remote Australia remains a high priority of the Government.

Resolution 52.2 to 'provide clear detail and timing on the next stage of the aged care reforms and their impact on local government Commonwealth Home Support Programme providers'

Funding agreements for the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) have been extended to 30 June 2020 to provide certainty of funding for service providers. At this stage no decisions have been made about future program or funding arrangements for the CHSP beyond 30 June 2020.

It is important that we work together to design and deliver the best possible aged care system for senior Australians.

Thank you for raising these matters.

Yours sincerely



The Hon KEN WYATT AM, MP
Minister for Aged Care
Minister for Indigenous Health

24 AUG 2018