



MEDIA RELEASE

BUDGET 2010 A MIXED BAG FOR AGED CARE

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'The initiatives to support the future aged care workforce to obtain higher qualifications and provide enhanced career paths is a very positive outcome which, if successful, will support the industry in attracting and retaining staff in the future,' said ACAA CEO, Rod Young.

'However, the failure to address many of the industry's other short and long term issues is disappointing,' said Mr Young.

'The confirmation that the Commonwealth will proceed to full responsibility for the Home and Community Care program over the next two years is welcomed,' said Rod Young.

'The support for the training and engagement of nurse practitioners in aged care is a positive initiative as it will provide a new career pathway for senior nurses wanting to maintain a clinical career within the industry,' said Mr Young.

'Aged care providers still do not know what their operating income will be for 2010/2011 financial year as the Government is yet to announce the approved funding index for the industry.

With average costs rising more than the CPI, the industry is hopeful that Government recognizes the real cost increases providers are facing and the impact upon our ability to attract and retrain appropriately skilled staff to provide the quality services Government and the community expect providers to deliver and which becomes impossible if funding falls below the average annual increase needed to provide quality care,' said Rod Young.

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