



## MEDIA RELEASE

# Icing is Good Cake is Better

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Aged Care Association Australia (ACAA) welcomed announcements yesterday by Prime Minister Gillard and Minister for Health and Ageing, Nicola Roxon, that aged care reform would be a focus for a second term and that a second term Labor Government would move quickly to respond to the recommendations of the Productivity Commission's current review into aged care reform.

'ACAA is pleased that both the Prime Minister and the Minister have acknowledged the long term call from the industry for structural reform to allow long term sustainability whilst maximizing consumer choice and equity of access,' said Rod Young, ACAA CEO.

ACAA also called on the Opposition Leader, Tony Abbott, to commit a Coalition Government if returned on August 21<sup>st</sup>, to guarantee that a Coalition Government would move to address the industry's structural issues and respond quickly to the Productivity Commission's report.

'However, none of this address as the short term plight of the industry. The Government's decision to withdraw the annual 1.75% additional funding for 2010/2011 financial year has been a real kick in the teeth for the industry,' Mr Young said.

'Productivity Commission reform will take 5 – 7 years to implement so it is essential both sides of politics also commit to some short term solutions so aged care staff no longer feel like the poor cousins of the health system,' Mr Young said.

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