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Aged care faces crisis

Providers of aged care say there's a huge shortage in the number of care packages available for older Australians wanting to remain in their own homes for as long as possible and the situation is worsening. The warning came as the Federal Government announced yesterday the results of the 2011 Aged Care Approvals Round. Providers applied for the right to supply 24,000 so-called community care packages in people's own homes but only 1724 were allocated by the Government. On the flip side, 10,493 residential bed licences were available but nursing homes only applied for funding to provide 7933. Council on the Ageing chief executive Ian Yates said, "A massive 24,000 community care places were applied for this round reflecting people's desire to receive support and care at home for as long as possible and not be prematurely forced into residential care."