



# S.A. shortchanged on beds

Out of an extra 8,140 extra residential aged care beds available nation wide, the Federal Government has only granted South Australia 237 places, despite having the oldest population in the country.

The Federal Government announced last Monday funding for an additional 8,140 beds across Australia.

New South Wales received the highest allocation of 2,244, with all other States except

for the Northern Territory allocated more places than South Australia.

Shadow Minister for Ageing, Mr Ivan Venning said that the allocation approved for South Australia was a disgrace.

“Given that we have the highest percentage of people aged over 65 compared to all other States, I would expect that we would get a larger proportion of the extra beds, but this has clearly not been the case.

“According to ABS statistics 15.4 percent of our population is aged 65 years and over, compared with 13.3 percent nationally, and this is predicted to rise in coming years.

“We need to make sure that we have sufficient facilities in place to cope with increased demand in the future.

“I wrote to the Federal minister for Ageing, the Hon. Justine Elliot in December, highlighting the fact that

we need more residential aged care places, however it seems that my calls fell on deaf ears.

“It appears once again, this is more about pork barrelling than genuine need.

“South Australia is not getting its fair share and a Redmond Liberal Government will continue to lobby the Federal Government to increase the number of residential aged care places we have,” said Mr Venning.