



The Grand Plan

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older people and their carers.

The plan is being used by the sector in its lobbying campaign in the lead up to the next federal election. It is absolutely imperative that our political decision makers fully understand that the system is in need of a major overhaul if we are to get the policy settings right to accommodate the ever increasing number of older people as highlighted in recent government intergenerational reports. Arguably the ageing of our population represents the single biggest social issue facing the nation.

The Grand Plan's 'asks' are simple: increase funding for residential and community care; establish a cost of care study; create more flexible funding options for capital; create a single community care program which responds to needs and address workforce issues.

While representatives from the

various organisations involved in formulating the Grand Plan will be engaging with our federal representatives, the plan also provides members of the public with an opportunity to become involved. And it is very simple. All you need to do is to visit The Grand Plan website – www.thegrandplan.com.au and send a card to the grand person in your life. At the same time a card will be sent to your local MP pointing out that your grand person(s) lives in their electorate and needs the very best of care. If you want to do more you can go on line and send an email letter to Federal Ministers Roxon and Elliot and the Shadow Ministers Dutton and/or Fierravanti-Wells.

We all have older grand people in our lives – people we cherish, admire and respect. Please take a moment to let our decision makers know that you care about them.

On June 30 this year the two aged care industry associations (ACSA & ACAA) and nine church-based aged care providers launched The Grand Plan.

The plan presents a new vision for the Care of Older Australians. There are three basic tenets that underpin the vision:

Choice: provide older people and their families greater choice of services that meet their needs, where and when required;

Access: ensure that people with special needs as well as those facing socio-economic and or geographic disadvantages have access to high quality aged care services

Sustainability: place aged care services on a sustainable footing to ensure their continuing capacity to meet the service and support needs of