



# You'll have more beds, we're just not sure where

**MATT JOHNSTON, ALISON REHN**

AUSTRALIANS will have to wait until well after election day to find out where a Coalition Government would boost aged-care bed numbers.

Opposition Leader Tony Abbott has made a pitch to elderly voters with a \$930 million promise to boost bed numbers and ease the strain on hospitals.

The funding pledge is only slightly more than the Gillard Government has promised.

Mr Abbott visited an aged-care facility in the marginal seat of Gilmore, on the NSW South Coast, to announce the package, which includes \$335 million over four years to convert up to 3000 bed licences into actual beds.

But Mr Abbott was unable to say where the beds would be provided. "We will look at that in government," he said.

The Government has slammed the Coalition promise as hollow, saying there are no new beds and there is no new money in the pledge.

A campaign spokesperson said Mr Abbott, a former Health Minister, had shown disregard for pressing workforce needs. "Who does Mr Abbott think will staff the 3000 places he wants to bring on line more quickly?" the spokesperson asked.

**CAMPAIGN TRAIL:** Tony Abbott meets resident Henry Stettin at an aged-care centre yesterday.

Picture: RAY STRANGE