The Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP
Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care
Member for Hasluck

MEDIA RELEASE

24 January 2017

$8.5 Million in Additional Funding for Aged Care Services in Regional, Rural and Remote Australia

Targeted, flexible and tailored services for older Australians—no matter where they live—are at the heart of the Australian Government’s aged care services reforms.

The Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Ken Wyatt AM, MP today announced more than $8.5 million in additional funding for the Multi-Purpose Services (MPS) Program for aged care in regional, rural and remote communities.

“Australia’s population is ageing rapidly so it’s imperative that we structure our aged care system so it is flexible, provides greater choice, is people-centred and sustainable,” Minister Wyatt said.

“No matter where people live, aged care services must be available to communities across the nation and in all its diversity.

“It’s important that older people with increasing or complex care needs are able to stay close to loved ones and where they have established community ties.”

The MPS Program is a jointly funded Commonwealth and state and territory government initiative providing integrated health and aged care services to small regional, rural and remote communities.

The new funding includes:

- the establishment of new services in Bamaga and Richmond (Queensland);
- 45 additional places across 12 services in Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia; and
- an increase in funding to deliver a higher level of care for 156 places across 28 services in New South Wales, Western Australia, South Australia and Queensland.

“People are staying healthy and active for longer and the aged care system has to adapt to that reality,” Minister Wyatt said.
“The Australian Government’s aged care reforms are built on the core principle that people are the centre of the system – and individual consumers, now and in the future, must be able to choose the kind of care and support they need, where and when they need it.

“In the past, the provider made all the decisions, now individual consumers have the choice.

“The additional MPS Program funding announced today will benefit some of our smaller regional, rural or remote communities by addressing their specific aged care needs.”

For more information about the MPS Program please visit https://agedcare.health.gov.au/MPSprogram.

For more information, contact the Minister’s Office on 02 6277 4707 or mobile 0435 686 314.