



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

Tim Wilson MP
Member for Goldstein

MEDIA RELEASE

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ABBERFIELD OPENS AS LOCAL AGED CARE RECEIVES BUDGET BOOST

Older Australians and their families in the Sandringham district are benefiting from a new 70-bed aged care facility, as the Federal Budget delivers a record boost for aged care.

Minister for Aged Care, Ken Wyatt AM joined local Member for Goldstein, Tim Wilson, to officially open the Abberfield Aged Care Facility and congratulate staff and residents today.

“Abberfield has a fine tradition of personal care in a modern environment with home comforts and is an important asset to the local community,” Minister Wyatt said.

“It is a great home for the 70 residents currently living here and is a shining example of the type of best-practice care that the Turnbull Government is proud to support, through an unprecedented commitment to aged care in the Federal Budget.”

In the Budget, annual aged care spending rises from the current \$18.6 billion per year to \$23.6 billion in 2021-22.

“There are more than 25,000 local residents in Goldstein aged 65 and over and they will benefit from this Budget boost,” said Mr Wilson.

“It includes a wide range of strategies to maintain quality aged care and support healthier ageing, to give older local residents more certainty and peace of mind.”

Minister Wyatt said the introduction of the *More Choices For A Longer Life* package in the Budget was a watershed moment for Australian ageing.

“This is about supporting people to have better lives and to aim to live to 100 or more,” the Minister said.

“We want to give people the choice to live in their own homes for as long as they want, while also expanding options for fulfilling and connected lives if or when they choose to move into residential aged care.”

Aged care Budget highlights include:

- An additional 13,500 residential aged care and 775 restorative care places to be allocated this year, plus a \$60 million capital investment
- The immediate rollout of an additional 14,000 high-level home care packages, on top of the 6,000 extra already delivered, with overall home care packages rising to 151,000
- \$107 million in mental health and loneliness support
- A new Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission, to provide a one-stop, independent, tough agency to uphold aged care standards
- Streamlining of My Aged Care access and information to make it easier to use, along with an online aged care provider comparison system
- Establishment of community hubs, with trials of personal care navigators, to help people choose the right aged care services

“The Government commitments to improve and simplify aged care access aim to help all older Australians and their families and should be of particular benefit to people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, including communities in Goldstein,” Mr Wilson said..

The Abberfield Aged Care Facility will double the number of places it provides to more than 136 by early 2019.

During the last financial year, the Turnbull Government invested more than \$100 million in recurrent annual funding for aged care services in the electorate of Goldstein, including \$93 million for residential care.

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