



The Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP

**Minister for Aged Care
Minister for Indigenous Health
Member for Hasluck**

MEDIA RELEASE

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Increased Access to Aged Care in Western Australia

Older people in Western Australia will benefit from the Australian Government's decision to provide short-term funding for additional transition care places.

Minister for Aged Care, Ken Wyatt AM, MP, today announced the allocation of 60 new transition care places from March this year to June 2018.

"This temporary allocation is a response to the WA Government's urgent request for more aged care places in Western Australia," Mr Wyatt said.

"The Australian Government is keen to ensure that all older people, regardless of where they live, have access to appropriate care and support.

"In Western Australia, there is a shortage of operational residential aged care beds available to older people.

"This time-limited allocation of transition care places provides the WA Government with breathing space, while it addresses factors contributing to the state's shortage of residential aged care."

Mr Wyatt said he had worked with WA Minister for Health; Culture and the Arts, the Hon John Day MLA, to identify options to address the state's aged care needs.

The Commonwealth will contribute approximately \$6 million for the temporary transition care places, with other funding provided by the state government.

Transition care provides a limited period of care and therapy to older people who have been in hospital, to enable them to rebuild their strength and abilities.

"These new places will allow older people in WA to improve their independence and confidence after a hospital stay, giving them a greater chance to remain living independently in their own homes," Mr Wyatt said.

"I will continue to work with the WA Government to develop sustainable solutions to meeting the aged care needs of West Australians, now and into the future."

For more information contact Randal Markey, Media Adviser, 0417 318 620