



The Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP

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

MEDIA RELEASE

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Aged care connecting to culture a top priority

A comprehensive new resource kit has been developed to assist Muslim Australians in accessing culturally comfortable aged care.

The Minister for Aged Care, Ken Wyatt AM, today visited the Aged Care and Housing (ACH) Group in Daw Park, South Australia, to see the results of an Aged Care Service Improvement grant that connects older people of the Muslim faith with culturally tailored aged care services.

“We live in the most successful multicultural nation on the planet, and an important aspect of maintaining this success is providing well-rounded support to all people in old age,” Minister Wyatt said.

“This is why I have established an Aged Care Sector Committee sub-group to provide advice on the development of an Aged Care Diversity Framework.

“The Framework, which I expect to receive in December, will help identify the common barriers which may prevent people accessing culturally appropriate aged care, and how this can be remedied.”

The Aged Care and Housing (ACH) Group received an Aged Care Service Improvement grant to build connections and the confidence of older Muslim people to take up aged care support.

The ACH Group has worked closely with South Australia’s Muslim communities – as well as local Aged Care Assessment Teams, South Australian Primary Health Networks, and Regional Assessment Services – to co-design aged care resources including:

- DVDs for aged care providers that explore Muslim history and culture, halal food, and dress
- Fact sheets including a *Pocket Guide for Aged Care Support Workers in Muslim aged care*

As part of this project, ACH Group has also developed and delivered cultural awareness and cultural sensitivity training to more than 700 staff members.

“The ACH Group has delivered resources that will support their staff – and the Muslim community in their care – for many years to come,” Minister Wyatt said.

“Staying connected to your heritage, and being cared for by someone who understands your background, can make all the difference to a happier, healthier and more fulfilling life.”

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