



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

MEDIA RELEASE

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New package to help improve aged care for care leavers launched

Forgotten Australians, Former Child Migrants, Stolen Generations and their families will benefit from an aged care resource package launched today.

The Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Ken Wyatt AM, MP, launched the new package to help the transition of people traumatised by their experiences in orphanages, children's homes, foster care or other institutions as they access aged care services, be they in their own home or entering residential care.

"The Care Leavers Package is designed to raise awareness and understanding of the unique needs of the Forgotten Australians, Former Child Migrants and Stolen Generations who have experienced physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse," Minister Wyatt said.

"More than half a million Australians fall within these groups, and many are reaching the age where they need to use aged care services and potentially re-enter a living environment which can trigger dreadful memories.

"It's important that aged care providers recognise and understand the emotional and physical scars people in these groups may bring with them as they age, and look more closely at the specific issues relating to their on-going and future care."

Federal Member for Swan and Care Leavers Australasia Network Patron Steve Irons said this Care Leavers Package was essential to help people who were wronged by institutions transition to a new stage of their life.

"For many people, the trauma they faced in their early childhood years has followed them into their adult lives. This Package is crucial for aged care service providers to understand the unique experiences and needs of Care Leavers to assist them with appropriate care."

The Package has been developed in consultation with a range of stakeholders, and includes a facilitator's guide for aged care services, an information booklet and a documentary-style video of case studies.

"This new resource will help aged care providers better understand the issues faced by these groups and deepen the cultural and aged care service capabilities of these organisations," Minister Wyatt said.

For further information, or for an electronic version of the Care Leavers Package, visit the Department of Health website: <https://agedcare.health.gov.au/careleavers>.

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