



THE HON CHRISTOPHER PYNE MP

Minister for Ageing

MEDIA RELEASE

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2007 Regional aged care numbers out tomorrow

Aged-care providers will know tomorrow the number of places available by region in the 2007 Aged Care Approvals Round. Invitations to apply for places will also be published in major metropolitan and leading regional newspapers, as well as selected ethnic press.

The Minister for Ageing, Christopher Pyne, said 32,000 aged care places, to be provided over the next three years, were announced last month to help meet the needs of older Australians seeking fair and affordable access to high-quality aged-care services.

“Of these 10,734 places, with an estimated annual recurrent funding value of more than \$330 million, will be available for allocation in the 2007 approvals round,” Mr Pyne said.

Mr Pyne said the Department of Health and Ageing had now approved the regional distribution of aged care places for 2007-08, along with indicative releases for 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Included in this year’s approvals round are 30 residential places for the Alice Springs region specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with chronic renal disease. This service will cater particularly for the residents of the town and surrounding communities.

Mr Pyne said the new service was an important step in improving the quality of life for older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander renal patients in the Northern Territory.

Information on all the available places, together with application kits for prospective applicants, will be available on the department’s web site from tomorrow. Application kits can also be obtained by calling the Aged Care Information Line on 1800 500 853 from next Monday.

“The package of places announced last month has raised the bar, increasing the Government’s planning benchmark from 108 to 113 places for every 1,000 people aged 70 years or over,” Mr Pyne said.

The closing date for applications for community care places will be 25 May, while that for residential places and capital grants will be 15 June.

Information on the 2007 aged care approvals process is available at www.health.gov.au/acar2007.

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