The Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP

Minister for Aged Care
Minister for Indigenous Health
Member for Hasluck

SPEECH

SHORT-TERM RESTORATIVE CARE ANNOUNCEMENT
Lefroy Care Centre
22 Lefroy Road, Bull Creek WA

12.30pm, 23 February 2017

Thank you, it’s a pleasure to be here.

I’d like to start by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today – the Wajuk people.

I extend my respects to their elders, past present and future, and to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people attending today.

May I also acknowledge:
- My parliamentary colleague, Ben Morton MP, Federal Member for Tangney
- Mike Nahan, Western Australian Treasurer, Minister for Energy, Citizenship and Multicultural Interests
- Stephanie Buckland, Chief Executive Officer, Amana Living
- Rebecca Tomlinson, Executive Director, MercyCare
- Gautam Gupta, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Catholic Homes
- Anne-Marie Cox, General Manager, Social Care, Silver Chain

Today I want to share with you a major improvement in the care available to older Australians that is designed to deliver:
- Care that is tailored to their needs.
- Care that can be delivered either in an aged care facility, or in a person’s home.
- Care that is flexible and focused on maintaining a person’s independence to keep them living in their homes for as long as possible.

Aged care in this country is evolving.

As we grow older, we will increasingly require greater flexibility in the services available to us, and how and when we access them.

We will want to maintain our independence and stay in our own homes for as long as possible.
It’s these factors that have driven the need for more intensive and flexible care options to help slow a person’s functional decline and optimise their quality of life, wherever possible.

Today’s announcement is a significant step towards meeting this goal.

Today, I’m pleased to announce the initial allocation of 475 places for Short-Term Restorative Care.

Short-Term Restorative Care will prevent people who have experienced illness or injury from prematurely entering permanent residential aged care.

It increases the care options available, particularly where a more targeted and intensive program of care is likely to lead to an improvement in a person’s ability to continue with ordinary day-to-day tasks, as well as their general health and wellbeing.

Under this important program, the person who is receiving care will help design and agree to the package of care, which will run for a maximum of eight weeks.

The care package is likely to include doctors and allied health professionals, working closely together to get the person back on their feet.

To give you an example, if someone suffers a fall at home, a provider could arrange for physiotherapy – with the support of the person’s doctor and other allied health professionals – and could arrange for an assessment of the person’s home to identify potential hazards.

These new places are worth an additional $34.7 million per year, and form part of the 2016-17 Aged Care Approvals Round.

While 475 Short-Term Restorative Care places will be available through to 2017–18, this will progressively increase to about 2,000 places by 2020–21.

Because of the eight week duration of each care package, up to 3,000 people a year will be able to access the program through the initial 475 places.

As more places are allocated over the next five years, up to 13,000 people will be potentially able to access this care each year.

Amana Living – which operates this care centre – has been allocated 35 of the initial 475 Short-Term Restorative Care places. This will allow them to extend the benefits of this program to people living in northern and south-western Perth.

Amana Living is already very experienced in providing restorative and transitional care, and has an existing multi-disciplinary team and strong allied health alliances.

Amana is extremely well placed to implement the program in this region.

I think you’ll agree from my brief outline that Short-Term Restorative Care genuinely represents a significant step forward in designing services that have the needs and wishes of the consumer at the core.
These sorts of innovative approaches to aged care will continue to be a key focus for this Government.

As I indicated yesterday, it is my intention that we continue to co-design the reforms that need to occur.

I congratulate Amana for the work they do.

Thank you.