



## **The Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP**

**Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care  
Minister for Indigenous Health  
Member for Hasluck**

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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#### **Seniors to Benefit from Remote Aged Care Workforce Accord**

Senior Australians living in remote areas will benefit from a targeted new initiative to sustain, support and expand the aged care workforce in remote communities.

“I welcome this move, which involves experienced remote aged care providers and expert organisations taking up the *Accord on the Remote Aged Care Workforce*, part of our Government’s landmark Aged Care Workforce Strategy,” said Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care Ken Wyatt AM.

“The Accord group will provide a unified voice for remote and very remote age care services and is expected to meet at least four times a year.

“The industry-led Accord recognises the unique challenges and the importance of finding local solutions to support a safe and rewarding working environment to attract and retain remote area workers.

“The group will focus on practical action, with the aim of supporting senior Australians to live close to home with the care they need, provided by people they know and trust, who are well trained and connected with their communities.”

Accord Chair is Chris Hall, CEO of Juniper WA. Deputy Chair is Praveen Gopal, Operations Manager, Aged Care and Disability Services at MacDonnell Regional Council, Northern Territory.

Professor John Pollaers OAM, Chair of the Aged Care Workforce Strategy Taskforce, said: “The Remote Accord will help lead the industry in maximising local workforce development and designing training and education experiences suited to people in remote settings.

“It will also work with communities to support the safety of the aged care workforce, and liaise with governments on appropriate program and policy settings for better remote aged care delivery.”

The Accord is part of continuing efforts by the industry, with the support of the Liberal National Government, to find new and innovative ways to provide services to senior Australians living in remote communities.

The Accord will complement extensive new Government funding and places for regional and remote aged care, including \$40 million for capital works and expansions, \$105.7 million for an additional 900 residential and home care places for First Nations aged care, and the regional priority given to the more than 14,000 new residential places allocated in 2018.

The Aged Care Workforce Strategy includes practical actions to grow the professional workforce and attract, train and retain skilled and talented staff to work in aged care services in a variety of settings.

For more about the remote accord and the workforce strategy go to:

<https://agedcare.health.gov.au/reform/aged-care-workforce-strategy-taskforce>

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Authorised by Ken Wyatt AM, MP, Member for Hasluck.