



## **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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#### **Aged Care Innovation Tackles Rising Dementia Challenge**

An innovative inner Sydney residential aged care service is helping reduce the trauma for senior Australians living with dementia, as a new report highlights the growing challenge of the condition.

The Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care, Ken Wyatt AM, officially opened The Village by Scalabrini in Drummoyne today, praising the way it delivers aged care to senior Italian-Australians.

“Too often, older couples can be separated when one partner needs higher care because they have dementia,” said Minister Wyatt.

“Scalabrini has designed an aged care home that is truly homely, helping couples remain together and age in comfort and with dignity.

“The Village includes 16 apartments for couples where one partner is living with dementia or has complex health care needs, or for single people with a care need.”

Minister Wyatt said a new Australian Bureau of Statistics report released this week showed that dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, remained the second leading cause of death in 2017, accounting for 13,729 deaths. It also remains the leading cause of deaths among Australian women.

“Supporting Australian families living with dementia is critical and has been a top priority for the Coalition Government since 2015,” said Minister Wyatt.

“Aged care homes like The Village play a critical role, providing a safe environment, with strong clinical backup and care, while supporting a healthy social life, too.”

The Village has a café, a gelato bar and a chapel for spiritual wellbeing. Residents maintain normal patterns of life, with groups of 6 to 14 living in individual houses and taking part in a range of activities that meet their interests.

Families, friends and neighbours are encouraged to visit the residents, to keep them engaged in the wider community.

“Our Government’s commitment to safe, high-quality and respectful aged care is unwavering,” Minister Wyatt said.

“I am seeing great progress in the way aged care facilities tailor services, care and programs for our senior Australians no matter what their background, heritage or lifestyle.

“Scalabrini has provided services to senior Italian Australians for 50 years by creating an aged care environment that understands and respects the lives and cultural heritage of its residents.”

Development of The Village went ahead after Scalabrini secured recurrent Australian Government funding for an additional 94 residential aged care places - valued at more than \$6 million a year - in the 2016-17 Aged Care Approvals Round.

The Village by Scalabrini won the Best Aged Care Facility award in the 2018 Australian Healthcare Week Excellence Awards.

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