



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

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**New Report Provides Snapshot of Aged Care in Australia**

A new snapshot of aged care services has found the sector is performing well, with increased funding and reforms beginning to deliver benefits for older Australians.

Assistant Minister for Health, Ken Wyatt AM, MP, said the information in the 2015-16 Report on the Operation of the *Aged Care Act 1997* shows the Australian Government's commitment to aged care.

"Aged care is undergoing significant reform to create a consumer-focussed system which is fair, transparent and sustainable," Minister Wyatt said.

"The Report shows how the \$16.2 billion the Australian Government provided to aged care throughout 2015-16 was spent, an increase of 6.6 per cent when compared to the previous year."

Minister Wyatt said aged care initiatives that make aged care more sustainable into the future while offering greater flexibility and choice for consumers are continuing to track well.

"*My Aged Care* has expanded to deliver consistent, better access to service and client information for all users, and streamlined referrals for assessment. We are continuing to consult with different sectors of the community to refine the system so that all Australians who need to access *My Aged Care* can do so." Minister Wyatt said.

"We've delivered an integrated entry level program to support people in their own homes – the Commonwealth Home Support Programme.

"We are shaping the services in this programme so they focus on wellness, so that with a little bit of support and sometimes just for short periods of time, people will be able to continue to live independently in their homes.

"These changes to the aged care system position it better to respond to and meet the needs of Australia's ageing population, and the changing consumer preference to receive care in their homes when possible and appropriate."

The report highlights the importance of this by noting that by 2026, an estimated 18 per cent of the population will be aged 65 years and over (5.0 million people) and 2.3 per cent (644,000 people) will be 85 years and over.

The Report is produced annually as required by section 63-2 of the *Aged Care Act 1997*. As well as the statutory reporting requirements it includes information on other aged care policies and programs to give a complete overview of aged care in the preceding financial year.

The full 2015-16 Report on the Operation of the Aged Care Act is available to view on the [Department of Health Website](#).

**For more information, contact the Minister's Office on 02 6277 4707**