The Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP

Minister for Aged Care
Minister for Indigenous Health
Member for Hasluck

LAUNCH OF THE MOVING INTO AGED CARE WEBSITE

Advocare Inc.
The Perron Centre, Victoria Park, Perth

Thursday 23 February 2017
9.30am-10.30am

Before I begin I want to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet – the Noongar people – and pay my respects to Elders past, present and future.

I also extend this respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people here today.

I thank Lisa Dwyer (CEO, Advocare) for inviting me to speak today at the launch of this important new website.

In a world where it seems we are always connected—whether it’s our phones, computers or the 24 hour news cycle, it’s reassuring and comforting to see clear examples—such as this website—where technology is working for us, not against us.

This new website is about navigating the possibilities of aged care in our own time, at our own pace.

It gives access to information about what we want in aged care, for ourselves or for family members and it shouldn’t be daunting.

I believe that at all stages of our life, access to clear, comprehensive and reliable information about health and ageing should always be available.

Australians are living longer and healthier lives and as they age they want to remain in charge of their decisions about their care.

If you were in an aged care facility now, I want you to think about if you had to eat, shower and go to sleep at a set time.

Informed choice is the key—people want support that works for them, when they want it, and how they want it.

Residents want choices.

This new website about Moving into Aged Care will be a valuable resource.
It will provide the tools and the resources to help make some of the biggest decisions about our aged care needs and those in our family.

I’m proud to be a member of the Australian Government that provided around $93,000 in funding for this project through its Dementia and Aged Care Services Fund.

The Dementia and Aged Care Services Fund is one way the Government helps organisations like Advocare to assist aged care consumers.

This website will help provide older people and their families with appropriate online tools as they consider residential aged care.

Aged care in Australia continues to evolve and we need to meet the demographic and cultural challenges not just today or tomorrow, but for the next 20 years and beyond.

The future of our aged care system needs to produce quality services that are consumer-driven.

And these services will also need to be affordable for individuals, for the community, and take account of Australia’s rich diversity.

In 2015–16, more than 1.3 million older people received some form of aged care.

Around 235,000 people with higher-care needs received permanent residential aged care.

Also in 2015–16, Australian Government expenditure for aged care totalled $16.2 billion, more than two-thirds of which—$11.4 billion—was for residential aged care.

The Government is focused on delivering aged care system that is affordable and sustainable.

While many people will choose to stay home and in their communities we still have to have a system that will look after us if we become frail.

When staying home is no longer an option, it doesn’t mean we no longer have choice.

People will still want to remain in control of their decisions.

We want all to feel empowered to choose the life we want, the conditions under which we choose to live, and the sort of care we want to access.

Ageing well, in a modern, prosperous society like Australia, is about choice—it’s about access to quality services and information to enjoy a respectful and dignified old age.

By creating the Moving into Aged Care website we are another step closer to an even better aged care system where choice and informed decision-making lead the way.

Thank you again for inviting me here today Lisa, and I want to thank everyone at Advocare for steering this website project for the benefit of Australians and their families.

It gives me great pleasure to launch your website.