



Aged & Community  
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## Fast Facts about the Aged Care Industry

- The aged care industry is Australia's 9<sup>th</sup> largest employer, employing 262,500 people
- The majority of aged care professionals are female and work as personal carers' or nurses
- The industry is experiencing increasing difficulty in attracting and retaining all types of staff required to deliver its critical services.
- The ability to attract and retain staff is affected by the lower rates of pay provided in aged care.
- The aged care industry provides residential care services to 170,000 older Australian's at any one time.
- 72% of new residents require high level care.
- There are 2,380 residential facilities in Australia. Only 14 facilities have had sanctions imposed against them by Government.
- 700,000 older Australian's and younger people with disabilities are cared for by the aged care industry in their own homes and communities
- Aged care costs are rising at a faster rate than Government funding plans
- Building of aged care homes is under threat. Government funding and user-pays contributions are not providing enough money to build more facilities.
- Repeatedly aged care professionals report the paperwork required by Government takes away valuable time and resources from residents. The interaction between clients/residents and staff is a major factor in the quality of care provided.
- Aged care providers want to meet reasonable accountability requirements but the current regulatory regime requires more and more paperwork that does not contribute to quality of care or safety of care
- Older Australian's need affordable, accessible and adaptable housing that supports them to age healthily. There is a requirement for a national Older Persons' Housing Strategy developed by Federal, State and local Governments.
- Community care services, such as home gardening and modifications, assistance with showering and nursing, enable Older Australian's to retain their



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independence at home and also prevent the need for more expensive services (such as hospital or residential aged care) and help people return home from a stay in hospital more quickly.