

OSCAR

Hospitality

Budget 2018 & the Aged Care Sector

Mental health among older Australians

The Australian Government is promising \$83 million to address the drastic shortage of mental health services in residential aged care facilities.

Helping to deal with depression and loneliness among residents will be the main focus.

The Government notes that men over 85 have the highest risk of suicide of all age groups.

There is also \$20 million for mental health nurses to support older people still living at home who are isolated and at risk.

Improving quality in the nursing home sector will be a focus, with \$50 million to help providers meet new standards as well as the establishment of an already flagged Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission that Health Minister Greg Hunt calls a "tough cop on the beat to ensure older Australians receive the best possible care".

Aged care for Indigenous people will be boosted with \$105 million to improve access in remote communities.

\$40 million will go towards urgent building and maintenance work for aged care providers in regional, rural and remote areas.

The Federal Government has also moved to address a chronic shortage of palliative care in nursing homes with a \$33 million package.



OSCAR

Hospitality

Aged-care will be easier to navigate for families

Understanding the aged care system has been one of the bugbears for older people and their families, the budget package allocates more than \$60 million to make the MyAged Care website easier to use.

The Government promises to simplify the forms required to apply for services and it is running trials to help people “navigate” through the system.

It will spend \$7 million testing different ways to help people understand the system before determining the best option.

The ageing plan comes with a message that people should be planning for their older years sooner.

It includes online checks for people at 45 and 65 to gauge their skills, finances and health so they can prepare better.

They are encouraged to keep working longer with a message that staying in the workforce “for as long as they want” is “laying the foundation for a secure retirement”.

Employers who hire people 50 and over can be eligible for a wage subsidy of up to \$10,000. And there is up to \$2,000 towards training for mature workers.



Source: [http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-05-08/budget-2018-aged-care-sector-gets-\\$1.6b-for-at-home-care/9740394](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-05-08/budget-2018-aged-care-sector-gets-$1.6b-for-at-home-care/9740394)



1300 4 OSCAR
(1300 4 67227)



info@oscarhospitality.com.au



www.oscarhospitality.com.au