



CATHOLIC HEALTH
Australia

MEDIA RELEASE

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Senator Xenophon's call for Senate Inquiry into aged care funding welcomed

Catholic Health Australia (CHA) welcomes Senator Xenophon's call for a Senate Inquiry into aged care funding, announced today.

CHA last week called on Minister Ley to [release the financial modelling](#) that informed the significant changes to the Aged Care Funding Instrument (ACFI) which the Department of Health estimates will reduce aged care funding by approximately \$2 billion over four years to 2019-20.

"The government's changes to the ACFI, outlined in the 2015 MYEFO and the 2016-17 Budget, target aged care residents in need of the most complex health and nursing care," said Catholic Health Australia's CEO, Suzanne Greenwood.

"This issue is of particular concern to Catholic not-for-profit providers whose objective is to care for the most vulnerable in our communities."

"CHA recognises that the government needs to take some action over the much higher than anticipated growth in care funding that has been projected, but is concerned that the action taken is excessive," said Mrs Greenwood.

"Any ACFI changes must first be informed by transparent and rigorously tested financial assessments, otherwise the government risks poorer quality of care outcomes for residents with the most complex needs."

"Transparency surrounding the government's cuts to ACFI, together with further sector consultation are things CHA has been calling for – we therefore support Senator Xenophon in his call for a Senate Inquiry into aged care funding."

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Catholic Health Australia represents Australia's largest non-government grouping of hospitals, aged and community care services, providing approximately 10 per cent of hospital and aged care services in Australia, including around 30 per cent of private hospital care as well as approximately 5 per cent of public hospital care.

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