

MEDIA RELEASE

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## Older Australians to have increased choice with funds following the consumer from today

Older Australians who access home care services will – for the first time – be able to exercise greater choice and control from today with the commencement of *Increasing Choice in Home Care*, launched this morning by Minister Ken Wyatt.

From today, home care funding will follow the consumer rather than be allocated to the home care provider, so that individual consumers can choose their preferred service provider and more easily change service provider.

Catholic Health Australia (CHA), peak body for the Catholic hospital and aged care network, representing approximately 10 per cent of all hospital and aged care service provision, has been supportive of these reforms, having worked closely with government and other aged care stakeholders towards implementing the changes.

CHA's CEO, Suzanne Greenwood, said today's launch marks a significant step in the right direction for aged care in Australia, with older Australians now afforded the opportunity to better influence the nature and quality of home care services.

"Consumer choice is pivotal to the improvement of any product or service, whether an aged care service or otherwise," said Mrs Greenwood.

"Today's launch of *Increasing Choice in Home Care* represents a significant win for both consumers and providers – it means older Australians will be empowered to choose the service they consider to be of better quality or more suitable to their needs, and home care service providers have an additional incentive to be recognised for offering quality services that are responsive to consumer needs and preferences."

*Increasing Choice in Home Care* is an important step forward towards creating a sustainable aged care service industry based on consumer choice and control, as envisaged in the [Aged Care Roadmap](#) for the reform of aged care services.

The Roadmap envisages an integrated residential and home care aged care system based on a single independent care needs and means assessment process across all aged care to determine each consumer's eligibility for aged care services and financial assistance, and consumer choice of provider and control over how the financial assistance is used, including where each consumer chooses to live while receiving care.

"While there is much more work to be done, CHA commends the Turnbull Government for progressing these important reforms, integral to transforming the aged care sector into a fairer, safer, and more consumer-driven system," concluded Mrs Greenwood.