

MEDIA RELEASE

5th April 2019

Catholic Health Australia welcomes ALP's cancer care package in 2019 budget response

"Catholic Health Australia (CHA) strongly supports Labor's announced commitment to improve access to medicines and life-saving cancer treatments with a pledge in their 2019 budget response for an additional \$2.3 billion investment in cancer-care," says CHA CEO Suzanne Greenwood.

"The costs incurred in cancer care can be significant depending on the level of screening, medical care, and psychosocial support required for the treatment and management of a cancer diagnosis. Therefore this support will be warmly received by those Australians experiencing a very difficult period in their lives with a cancer diagnosis," continues Mrs Greenwood.

"Catholic not-for-profit hospitals are significant providers of cancer care delivery, research and patient support. They welcome the additional funding that will allow more people to receive the holistic range of services that they need to manage their health without the worry of additional financial burdens".

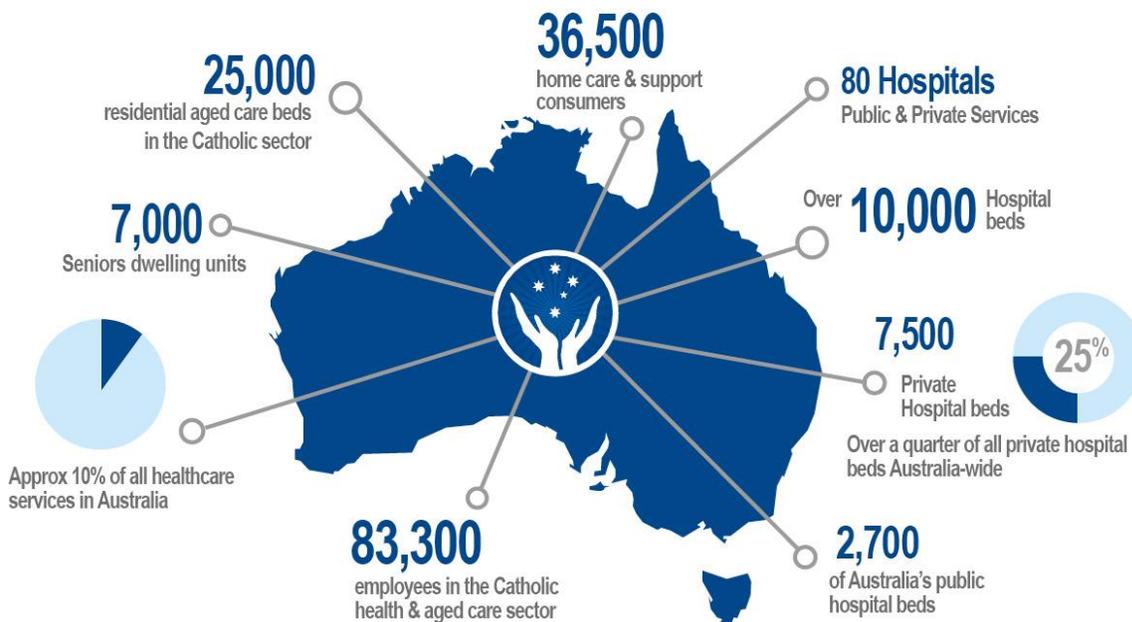
Despite this pledge of significant support for extra investment into cancer-care, Catholic aged care providers were hoping that the Shorten budget response would also have addressed the need of older Australians to receive additional home care packages.

Whilst older Australians living with cancer will appreciate reduced out of pocket costs, many will also need to be able to access a Home Care Package. At present, 128 000 older Australians are waiting up to 22 months for packages at their assessed care need level.

"The Royal Commission into Quality and Safety in Aged Care has already highlighted significant barriers to home care and residential living that will require urgent attention by any future Government. CHA therefore looks forward to announcements in the election campaign to address this important need".

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Catholic Health Australia (CHA) is Australia's largest non-government grouping of health, community, and aged care services accounting for around 10 percent of hospital-based healthcare in Australia. Our members also provide around 25 percent of private hospital care, 5 percent of public hospital care, 12 percent of aged care facilities, and 20 percent of home care and support for the elderly.



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CHA represents the largest single grouping of non-government health, aged and community care services in Australia.