

Health

- Established a **palliative care working group** to develop a shared definition, a common language and way to better promote it to the community;
- Continued to push for a workable solution on **prostheses reform** that delivers choice for consumers, does not interfere in clinical practice and protects our hospitals' revenue from unfair practices;
- Published a major work on the **lessons learned from COVID** in health and aged care, providing an organisational pathway on how to deal with the pandemic that continues to provide value to our members;
- Led the call for governments to make **COVID vaccination compulsory** for health care workers to protect our workforce and the public against more virulent strains of the virus.
- Minister Greg Hunt launched CHA's report **Out of Hospital Care in Australia** advocating for a shift to hospital in the home care for 200,000 Australians each year.



Aged Care

- Played a significant role in the development and the testing of a **new AN-ACC classification** and funding model for residential aged care;
- Made a number of submissions, responses and gave evidence to the **Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety** which helped inform many of the findings and recommendations that emerged from the process.
- Helped design and steer the **'It's Time to Care about Aged Care'** campaign, putting pressure on Canberra on aged care funding and reform in the lead up to the federal Budget.
- Led advocacy for reforms and funding for the aged care sector and part of the consultation that led to, among other things, the **increase in the Basic Daily Fee per resident per day**.
- Continue to be closely involved in consultation over the course of the next year as the aged care reforms move into the implementation phase, ensuring the Catholic sector viewpoint is heard.





Campaigns

- Drove a number of campaigns, among them one to reassure Catholics of the ethical concerns surrounding some vaccines and a wider consumer-facing campaign a thank you to our health workers, in Greater Sydney throughout August encouraging the general population to get vaccinated. The **'Let's Get Back to the Life we Love'** campaign reached 829,537 people who saw it on average 2.5 times and 4,269 people clicked through to book a vaccine shot.
- Continued to ensure the Catholic voice was represented across both the mainstream media, trade press and Catholic media outlets. In the past year CHA was mentioned 400 times across the mainstream media alone on a variety of issues such as voluntary assisted dying, prosthetic reform, vaccinations and the mental health of frontline workers.

Strategy and Mission

- Reinvigorated CHA's Mission role to become an influential thought leader on social justice issues, bioethics and serve as a prophetic voice for the poor, vulnerable and marginalised
- Established a new **Social Justice Committee** to drive a social justice advocacy platform for Catholic Health Australia
- Brought together the bioethical case for mandatory vaccinations **for community services**, health and aged care workers
- Initiated a new thought leadership initiative on **COVID-19 and inequity**, which will involve case studies profiling the perspectives and material support provided by CHA members for vulnerable groups, supplemented by quantitative analysis
- Fought proposed **euthanasia laws** in Queensland, Tasmania, South Australia and NSW, serving as a united voice for the sector's strong ethical, patient safety and quality concerns with assisted suicide.
- Co-ordinated a sector-wide contribution of \$350,000 for urgent medical aid to help Catholic agencies in Papua New Guinea in their fight against COVID-19.



No Queenslanders should be forced to choose between pain and death.

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The user must pay more

"This is a good Budget for good providers, but..." Catholic Health Australia's Pat Garcia says the Budget has missed the opportunity to address two key reforms: fairer consumer contributions and aged care wages and supply.

BY PAT GARCIA

Alexander Pope once observed that those who expect nothing, will never be disappointed. So, after 20 reviews in 20 years, the aged care sector was right to moderate its expectations about the Budget following the publication of the Aged Care Royal Commission's final report.

The Royal Commission's recommendations were aspirational in many ways – a rights-based act and needs-based funding replacing a rationed model. What sort of

But last Tuesday the Morrison Government made aged care the centrepiece of its Budget, announcing a further \$17.7 billion investment in the sector: \$7.5 billion to support home care, 80,000 additional home care packages, \$7.8 billion for residential care, and an increase of \$10 per day to the Basic Daily Fee supplement.

It was such a stunning turnaround in Government policy, it left many of us with whiplash. But now the dust has settled, what to make of it?