

MEDIA RELEASE

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COTA NT's Welcomes Aged Care Funding Injection for Aged Care Providers

A Commonwealth funding injection of \$444 million to further support the aged care industry and older Australians during the COVID-19 outbreak is to be applauded.

“The measures announced by the Prime Minister will help secure the stability of the aged care industry, which could be drastically impacted by any potential spread of COVID-19 to aged care staff and residents,” said COTA NT CEO, Sue Shearer.

“COTA NT has been increasingly concerned about elderly Territorians living in their own homes who are receiving aged care packages. We are particularly pleased with the increase of \$92.2 million for the Commonwealth Home Support Program, which will enable the delivery of additional in-home services and meals. COTA NT particularly lobbied with its other state and federal counterparts to add additional funds to this program.”

“Other incentives include \$234.9 million for a staff ‘retention bonus’ for both residential and home care staff. We all know that in this industry staff are among one of the lowest paid, so this is another welcome incentive. This will create an incentive for workers to stay with their employers to receive significant tax-free bonuses.”

Other additional funding is \$78.3 million in additional funding for residential care staffing for support and additional staff, \$26.9 million to supplement the viability of residential aged care facilities, including the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aged Care Program and other services.

Ms Shearer said this aged care funding injection is a much needed and welcomed increase in funding in these extraordinary times and will go a long way to ensuring the safety and ongoing health of senior Territorians.

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