



Media Release - 07 April 2022

The Aged Care sector across Australia has been awaiting the Federal Budget for 2022-2023 announced on 29 March 2022, in hopes that this would see significant improvement in the funding for providers and increased compensation for this overworked and invaluable group of the workforce. People involved with the sector had hoped the budget would bring the desperately awaited and needed relief responding to increased costs and recognition for the extra care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has seen workers go above and beyond in support of older Australians enabling them to remain safe in their own homes and residential facilities. Partners in Culturally Appropriate Care (PICAC) organisations in every state and territory hoped that this would recognise the role multicultural providers play in supporting the community, the increased stress workers are under at present and would reward them for their dedication alongside the health sector in keeping people safe.

While we acknowledge that the budget includes an additional \$500m, we also know this is not enough to sustain the standards which are expected from the sector to continue to deliver high quality care to the individual. It is also not enough to retain and attract much needed workers to the sector or secure required skills and competencies reflective of complex, evolving and growing needs.

The national PICAC Alliance is calling on the Government to recognise the strain placed on multicultural seniors, their families and informal carers, and providers, as, despite many requests for review presented pre-budget, this cohort has once again been overlooked. Urgent attention is needed to improve the pay and conditions of the aged care workforce to which at least 50% are workers from multicultural and migrant backgrounds.

The PICAC Alliance would also like to see stronger commitment to supporting initiatives that specifically address the needs of older Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, particularly around access, equity, and inclusion. For CALD communities, the government should actively seek to provide enhanced incentives and programmes to increase the number of RNs and aged care workers qualified to deliver culturally appropriate health and aged care services, support and care.

We continue to advocate for and on behalf of aged care providers and the community of ageing Australians to ensure that everyone is seen, heard and supported.

For further information please contact PICAC Alliance Secretariat, Agnieszka Chudecka on 08 8241 9900.

The current providers of the PICAC Program include: Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra, COTA NT, Diversicare, Multicultural Aged Care, Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania, Fortis Consulting, Centre for Cultural Diversity in Ageing

For more information on the members please visit: <https://lnkd.in/gtRvF-x9>