<u>Providers fail mandatory aged care demands</u> (Jon Austin, Policy and Communication Officer)

A tough talking watchdog is wrangling providers to care more.......

Aged care providers are getting extra taxpayer's money to deliver more care under government reforms. However, some of them are delivering less care. This has attracted the ire of the aged care watchdog, which has launched a crackdown on providers that are not spending the extra dollars on age care residents, as required under the Federal Governments reforms. The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission says 11 providers operating 27 individual residential aged care homes have failed to reach their legally enforceable care minutes targets across successive quarters. The commission has imposed "enforceable undertakings" on those providers, firstly focusing on services in metropolitan cities where surrounding services have much smaller -or nocare minutes shortfalls. An enforceable undertaking is legally binding and sets out agreed action that the provider will take to meet their care minutes requirements. These include the immediate recruitment of more nursing and care staff. The commission can take the provider to court for failing to implement an enforceable undertaking. Sanctions and financial penalties can be imposed. "The commission is being firm and fair with these providers, and we are using our regulatory powers to hold them to account," Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner, Janet Anderson, said. "Failure to deliver mandatory care minutes where there is an absence of tangible effort to achieve these targets could lead to sanctions and financial penalties. "All residential aged care providers are on notice as the commission will continue to actively monitor, engage with and take regulatory action against providers that persistently fail well short of their care minutes requirements.." The says that, since 1/10/2023, residential aged care homes have had to deliver mandatory care minutes, increasing to sector average of 215 care minutes per resident per day on 1/10/2024. This includes 44 minutes of registered nurses care.

In October last year, Aged Care Minister Anika Wells, put providers on notice, warning of consequences for noncompliance. In an open letter to providers, she highlighted the importance of staffing levels, describing mandatory care minutes targets as a 'once-in-a-lifetime-change ' to improve the quality and safety of care of nursing home residents. "Therefore it's imperative that as an approved provider, you do all you can to ensure that you have the right mix of staff to deliver your required care minutes," she wrote. The letter warned, "The Australian Government expects that you are spending your increased care funding on meeting your mandatory care minutes."

A key initiative of NSA Better Age Care campaign aims to solve that chronic problem by retaining current aged care workers near retirement and recruiting retired workers back into the industry. Older people on the Age Pension would also benefit. Employment income should be exempt from the income test for pensioners working in the care economy((aged, disability, and child care). This will give older workers a greater income and retain more people in the care sector , ensuring care services can be delivered. This would boost workforce participation, helping to meet demand for care workers, especially in the aged care sector. NSA is also calling for an exemption from the aged care assets test for home care recipients when downsizing to more age-appropriate housing.

Key Points:

- Over the past 2 years, aged care funding has increased 58% mostly to providers to deliver more care.
- Some providers have failed to meet mandatary care minutes requirements and the federal watchdog has directed them to comply.

National Seniors AUSTRALIA

Modbury Branch Newsletter

February

Issue 227



Branch Diary

Guest speakers

17 th Feb.	Catalyst Centre Speaker (Seniors information Centre)			
17 th . March	Paul Bartlett Antiques Valuations			
24 th April	Easter Monday No Meeting!!			
19th May	Orange Sky Laundry Presentation			
Modbury NSA is sponsored by the Modbury Plaza Hotel				

Thanks to the Office of Federal Member for Makin, Tony Zappia, in the printing of this Newsletter

Committee for 2024----2025

COMMITTEE TO ZO	L 1	
President	Susan Boyle	0410 500 779
Vice President	Piero Fioretti	0423 784 050
Secretary	Bruce Anderson	0449 574 554
Treasurer	Bruce Dommenz	0499 006 437
Assist. Treasurer (Membership)	Alastair Boyle	
Activities Officer	Rosalie Zurek	8264 9681
Guest Speakers (interim)	Rosalie Zurek	0416 010 329
Welfare	Ashley Todd	0447 745197
Extra Member (1)	Lyn Possingham	
Extra Member (2)	Garry Possingham	
Extra Member (3)	Mary Fioretti	
Ex Officio. Public Officer	John Fellows	
Door	Eric Schubert & Mary Fiore	etti
Greeter	Beverly Anderson	
Newsletter	Ray Zurek	
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Modbury National Seniors meet every third Monday of the month (4th if Public Holiday) at 1.30pm at Lutheran Homes Inc., 1217 Grand Junction Rd. Hope Valley except November and December. Entrance fee of \$5.00

Postal address: NSA Modbury, PO Box 499, St. Agnes, 5097

We always welcome visitors and potential new members. If after 3 or 4 visits you find that you enjoy coming to our meetings and being part of our group why not become a financial member of National Seniors Australia? Members are able to get involved in discussing and taking part in community issues pertaining to Senior Australians.

You can also take part in social events, hear interesting guest-speakers and meet likeminded members at other branches. Most importantly members can ensure that their voice is heard on issues affecting the over 6 mill. Australians over 50!

Only financial members are covered by NSA Insurance on outings! Financial members will also be given preference when there is a limit on numbers eg. Christmas Lunch, bus trips, etc.

iviembershio tees:	Joint	single
1year membership	\$49.50	\$80
2 year	\$88	\$143
3 year	\$120	\$180
5 year	\$220	\$325

Enrolment forms can be found on activities Table or from Treasurer. M/fees can be paid by phone. No Credit card surcharge applies!

Riddle: Poor people have it. Rich people need it. If you eat it you'll die. What am I?

Interesting fact: Different branches on the same Ash tree can be female, male or both at once!!

Please wear your nametag at all meetings and Outings!!!!!!

Forthcoming events for 2024---25

Monday 3rd March, 12 noon, Lunch at Highlander Hotel, 647 N/East Rd. Gilles Plains Seniors lunch \$20 (Main), Salad and Veggie Bar, Raffle

<u>Put your names in Outing folder to attend Outings and Please let Rosalie know if unable to attend!!!!!!!!!!!!!!</u>

Feb. Birthdays: Robyn Neate(4), Ashley Todd(4), Joyce Wright(10), Robert Megaw(13),

Anniversaries: Marcia & Eric Schubert (19) Congratulations and Best Wishes to All !!!

Vale: Ron Murphy(Nov.2024), Athelea Parker (Jan.2025)

Teasers and Puns...

I've started investing In stocks : Beef, vegetables, chicken. One day I hope to become a Bouillianaire!

I accidently rubbed ketchup in my eyes. Now I have Heinzsight!

I tried to come up with a carpentry pun that would work. I thought I nailed it but nobody saw it!

Singing in the shower is fine until you get soap in your mouth. Then it becomes a soap opera!

How much does a chimney cost? Nothing, it's on the house!

Once upon time there was a king who was only 12 inches tall He was a terrible king but a great ruler!

My friend jack says he can talk to vegetables. That's right ...Jack and the beans talk! I want to tell you about a girl who only eats plants. You probably heard of herbivore! I was struggling to work out how lightning works and then is struck me!

Six cows were smoking pot and playing poker. That's right ...The stakes were pretty high.



NB: Our March Guest Speaker, Paul Bartlett, is an Antiques Valuation Expert so bring in your valuable and Antiques (no husbands or wives) and see much they're worth if you sell them or just value for sentimental reasons!
