



**Allied Health
Professions
Australia**

**FAIR ACCESS
TO ALLIED
HEALTH
FOR ALL**

Help stop the suffering and
make your vote count

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MEDIA RELEASE

Election result response – for immediate distribution

Albanese's commitment to a fair Australia must include fair access to allied health – Wednesday 25.05.22

Allied Health Professions Australia welcomes Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's victory speech commitment to an equal and fair Australia. Mr Albanese said 'I want Australia to continue to be a country that no matter where you live, who you worship, who you love or what your last name is, that places no restrictions on your journey in life.'

AHPA CEO Claire Hewat says that as part of this commitment, the incoming Labor Government must work to fully recognise the role allied health can play in collaborative, needs-based, health, care and support systems, and enable fair access to allied health services.

'Allied health is a natural fit within care systems that aim to treat the whole person and understands their specific needs. It also makes sense within an approach that prioritises early intervention and prevention across all sectors, rather than perpetuating costly emergency and hospital care further down the track.'

AHPA looks forward to working with the new Government to translate their pre-election commitments into equitable access and fairness, including in primary care, residential aged care and the NDIS.

'Our primary health care system must be about more than just GPs and Medicare fee for service. It's time to think outside the square and implement properly funded multidisciplinary models that work in their local context.' Ms Hewat said.

While supporting the new Government's recognition of aged care worker wage rise claims and the need for nurses in every residential aged care facility, AHPA says no party has yet addressed the ongoing allied health crisis in aged care:

'To say that allied health services are not provided to every older person who needs them is a major understatement, especially in residential aged care, which has a shameful average of eight minutes a day of allied health care per resident. Although the new aged care funding model is a great improvement, it was never intended to address allied health needs, so there is still critical work to do.'

AHPA also views Labor's commitment to reviewing the NDIS as a positive step. 'We want the NDIS to stay true to its founding philosophy and address the needs of participants as their fundamental human rights. Our practitioners' experience is that this does not happen consistently, and participants often encounter confusing barriers to allied health services and go through traumatic processes if they disagree with Agency decisions.'

As Rachel, who shared her experience in AHPA's 'Fair Access to Allied Health for All' campaign said: 'While I see the NDIS as a godsend that got Jack's needs finally met, it's been an extremely distressing saga which has taken a big toll on me – burnout, anxiety and depression.'

About Allied Health Professions Australia

Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA) is a collegiate body consisting of 24 national allied health association members and a further 13 affiliate members with close links to the allied health sector. AHPA's members collectively represent over 150,000+ allied health professionals who work across the primary, acute and tertiary sectors in Australia.

AHPA believes it is vital that allied health professionals are recognised for their work alongside the medical and nursing communities and for their potential to help shape and implement the healthcare system of the future. Supporting allied health professionals and making allied health services accessible will ensure that Australia has an integrated, comprehensive healthcare system that delivers world class care. Please visit www.ahpa.com.au for further information about us.



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Allied health practitioners are already trained to provide care and support to people across the lifespan, focusing not just on absence of illness, but reablement and wellbeing. It is inspiring to think that under the new Government we may finally achieve this kind of journey for each person without restrictions on the services they need.

CEO Claire Hewat is available for comment.

Please direct media inquiries to Suzie Medhurst – Communications Manager 0448958682

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