



MEDIA RELEASE

Current state of allied health for aged care residents even worse than Royal Commission finding – Tuesday 21.06.22

Aged care residents receive less access to allied health care services now than they did a year and a half ago when the Royal Commission into the Aged Care system first identified this ‘woeful state’ of affairs, says the national peak body for allied health, Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA).

AHPA’s latest policy brief shows that a person in residential aged care receives an average of 5.3 minutes per day of allied health care. The Royal Commission finding was eight minutes a day.

‘To make matters worse, the new funding model for residential aged care, although an overall improvement on the previous approach, does not even mandate a minimum amount of allied health services. Instead, it will be left to aged care providers to decide how much of their funding to allocate,’ says AHPA’s Chief Executive Officer Bronwyn Morris-Donovan.

‘And we know that total aged care funding from the last two federal Budgets is already not sufficient to cover anticipated cost increases, such as much needed wage increases for personal care workers.’

Ms Morris-Donovan says that while the previous Coalition Government gave assurances that allied health funding would not be less than under the previous funding model, this is ‘cold comfort’ given the Royal Commission findings.

‘The Royal Commission recommended that allied health be treated as an intrinsic part of aged care and be provided to every resident according to their needs. This requires a fully funded system of clinical assessment and management so that each person gets the right types and frequency of allied health services.’

‘Labor’s election commitment to increasing nursing staff in aged care is essential. But nurses and personal care workers can’t do their jobs effectively without having allied health working to improve residents’ reablement and wellbeing – as the Commissioners recognised.’

Ms Morris-Donovan says AHPA looks forward to engaging with the federal Labor Government to ensure allied health in aged care receives dedicated funding, including for clinical assessment and management.

‘We need an urgent action plan. This is a human rights issue and the least that older people deserve.’

For further information read [AHPA’s policy brief on residential aged care](#) released today.

CEO Bronwyn Morris-Donovan is available for comment. Please direct media inquiries to Colleen O’Sullivan – Communications Officer 0410 009 600.

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.