

27 February 2017

Last week Group CEO Dan Minchin traveled to Sydney and met with 100 other aged care consumers and leaders at a historic round table discussion. The Minister for Aged Care, Ken Wyatt AM, MP, invited round table guests to consider the Government's next steps in the reform of Australia's \$16 billion aged care sector.

The meeting was held to further the Government's close co-operation with the aged care sector to ensure affordable, accessible and quality aged care for older Australians and Mr Wyatt told the Roundtable that he supports the Aged Care Roadmap (released in April last year), however, reform and the sequencing of reform were complex. "I am keen to hear from you about how the Roadmap sits with your own experiences as aged-care providers and consumers," he said.

Dan Minchin found the meeting extremely positive, saying it was good to be able to discuss the roadmap with a variety of players, including consumers and peak bodies, as well as providers. "It is a credit to Minister Wyatt for his commitment and for listening. He's a great advocate for a system which enables better later lives."

The Government have had a consistent, long standing approach to this reform, which has been on a steady path since the 2011 Productivity Report. With the majority of consumers receiving services from our merged organisation being over 65, we see lots of opportunities for creative and courageous innovations to deliver better care and support, and better value for money. Mr Wyatt also said innovation and technology would be a key to improving aged-care services in a market-driven environment, which will be key in our vision for a bigger, stronger WA-based organisation providing support to seniors.

Today the Minister launched *Increasing Choice in Home Care*, which gives consumers more choice in home care services to suit their individual needs. Mr Wyatt said the major reform will improve the way services are delivered to older people in their homes.

"Changes to Home Care Packages, starting today, mean that funding for home care will – for the first time – follow the consumer, not the provider," he said. "Today's announcement is fundamentally about increasing consumer choice and control, however, it is also about reforming, renewing and revitalising our aged-care system.

"Consumers and their carers will be looking for an aged care business that best understands their needs.

"Providers will need to adapt and innovate to meet this challenge and grasp the opportunities that go with it."

For more information:

[Media release on Round Table Discussion - 23 February 2017](#)

[Media release on today's announcement - 27 February 2017](#)