

## **CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE AGED CARE FUND**

A Shorten Labor Government will provide the resources necessary for key investments in aged care centres servicing ethnic communities throughout Australia, by establishing the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Aged Care Fund.

The CALD Aged Care Fund will provide funding towards new facilities, and upgrades and improvements to existing facilities that service ethnic communities throughout Australia.

Many Australians as they age, even they have been completely proficient in the English language during their working life, will largely return to the language of their heritage.

This Fund, will support aged care facilities which ensure older Australians from CALD backgrounds are in an environment where the language, food and surroundings are familiar.

This builds on our announced ageing strategy and is about ensuring dignity in aged care for every Australian.

Older Australians from CALD backgrounds also experience particular challenges with dementia, and this fund will build upon our announced dementia package.

Labor will provide \$30 million over four years for this Fund, which has been provisioned from within an existing allocation on page 26 of Labor's Fiscal Plan.

**MONDAY , 27 JUNE 2016**

## **LABOR'S POSITIVE PLAN TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF THOSE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA**

A Shorten Labor Government will partner with Alzheimer's Australia to improve the lives of those living with dementia and their families, through the development of a National Dementia Strategy and the creation of dementia friendly communities across the country.

Dementia is not simply an aged care issue - it is a chronic health condition with social and economic implications.

People living with dementia are more than the sum of their symptoms. They deserve to live with dignity, support and security.

With more than 350,000 Australians affected by dementia, it is important to tackle this fatal disease. Dementia is the second leading cause of death in Australia and the leading cause of disability in people over the age of 65 years.

Without a medical breakthrough, close to one million Australians will have dementia by 2050. Each week there are more than 1,800 new cases of dementia in Australia – that is about one person every six minutes. By 2050 that is expected to grow to 7,400 new cases.

Dementia costs the economy around \$5 billion annually. It is on track to become the third greatest source of health and residential aged care spending within two decades, representing around one percent of GDP.

A Shorten Labor Government will commit \$25 million to help make Australia a dementia-friendly nation and address the increasing incidence of dementia.

This will include:

- Developing a National Dementia Strategy to ensure a coordinated national approach to the issue.
- Supporting Alzheimer's Australia to roll out the internationally renowned Dementia Friends program across Australia.
- Establishing a dementia-friendly resource and collaboration hub.
- Supporting local communities to become dementia-friendly.
- Conducting two trials for respite models, to support those who provide care to people living with dementia.

Labor's plan will see more communities embracing a dementia-friendly approach and demonstrating support for those with dementia, as well as vulnerable members of society more generally. This approach is based on international evidence and people living with dementia and their families will play a central role in driving it.

Local communities will be supported to develop local Dementia Action Plans which can include changes to streetscape and public buildings, peer support services for people living with dementia, their families and carers, or widespread awareness and education for the general community. Local advocates will also receive training and resources to better raise awareness of dementia and how to better support people living with dementia in their community.

Labor will also invest in trialling and evaluating consumer-led models of respite in two areas of high need - the Inner South West of Sydney and the NSW Central Coast. People living with dementia often find it difficult to access appropriate respite care, and carers repeatedly identify good respite care as an important support for a sustainable caring relationship.

Labor has a strong record in this area. In 2012, the previous Labor Government made dementia the ninth National Health Priority Area and funded the development of the world's first risk-reduction program, *Your Brain Matters*.

A Shorten Labor Government will actively lead the way to ensure Australia is equipped and prepared to manage the increasing incidence of dementia.

Only Labor will put people living with dementia, their carers and those who provide formal care and services first.

For more information on Labor's plans to address dementia see [www.100positivepolicies.org.au/national\\_dementia\\_strategy\\_fact\\_sheet](http://www.100positivepolicies.org.au/national_dementia_strategy_fact_sheet).

**FRIDAY 17 JUNE 2016**

### **LABOR'S PLAN TO BECOME AN AGE-FRIENDLY NATION**

A Shorten Labor Government will appoint a Minister for Ageing and develop a National Strategy for an Ageing Australia to ensure Australia becomes an age-friendly nation.

For Australia to realise the opportunities and meet the challenges presented by an ageing population, Government action is needed.

An age-friendly Australia needs to:

- Have a whole-of-Government approach, under the direction of a dedicated Minister for Ageing
- Promote and support active ageing
- Undertake an independent, transparent and thorough review of the aged care reforms, with a focus on funding models;
- Develop an aged care workforce strategy.

The Liberals see our ageing population as a burden rather than an opportunity.

They have not appointed a Minister for Ageing.

They have seen aged care as nothing but a savings option – cutting its funding in each of their Budgets – most recently \$1.2 billion in the 2016 Budget.

Labor sees things very differently.

In 2012, Labor delivered one of the biggest reforms to aged care and ageing in a generation – the \$3.7 billion, ten-year strategy known as the Living Longer, Living Better (LLLBB) aged care package.

These reforms were designed to build a fairer, more sustainable and nationally consistent aged care system to meet the challenges of an ageing population.

Today, these reforms are delivering choice, easier access and better care for older Australians, their families and carers, while ensuring the aged care and services industry is equipped to deal with the dramatic growth in our ageing population.

But there is more to do.

A Shorten Labor Government will:

- Address ongoing problems in the My Aged Care gateway in the first 100 days of Government, in consultation with the aged care sector, consumers and medical and allied health providers.
- Conduct an independent review of the LLLB reforms with a view to moving to greater flexibility, choice and consumer control by 1 July 2017, with a particular focus on the Aged Care Funding Instrument, following concerns raised by the sector and growing costs in this area.
- Work with the aged care sector and unions to ensure we can meet the challenges of the increasing need for aged care workers, as well as career progression and conditions for this low paid and predominantly female workforce.
- Establish the Active Ageing Fund to support programs to reduce the risk of dementia, prevent falls, improve physical activities and healthy lifestyles - enabling older Australians to age well in their own communities, at home and at work.

Labor believes that longer lives are one of the greatest achievements of the 20th Century, and that longevity will define the 21st Century.

Labor is committed to ensuring that Australia becomes an age-friendly nation.

**THURSDAY 26 MAY 2016**