

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 6 March 2026

NEW AGED CARE FUNDING WELCOMED

The Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) welcomes the Albanese Government's investment of an additional \$115 million through the Aged Care Capital Assistance Program, to deliver more aged care beds in select hotspots across South Australia, New South Wales and Western Australia.

OPAN CEO Craig Gear said the investment will help alleviate some of the delayed discharge pressures being experienced by hospitals and offer older people, their families and support network greater certainty and confidence.

"It is imperative that more aged care beds are delivered to cater for high demand and supply shortage and this funding is a positive step towards achieving that," Mr Gear said.

"We know that prolonged stays in acute care often leads to cognitive decline and physical impairment, which is why extra funding is crucial.

"This is a good example of the Commonwealth and States working together in support of older people. It is also important that States work with local councils to expedite planning and development application processes to avoid unnecessary delays with these new builds.

"The Albanese Government must also prioritise greater investment in its Support at Home program, which has faced several challenges since the new Act took effect last year and require urgent action.

"Our network member advocates have told us that some older people are reducing their services due to unfair price increases, and experiencing lengthy assessment and reassessment wait times.

"We will monitor this investment process closely to ensure it meets its objectives and safeguards the interests and rights of older people."

Mr Gear reminded older people, including those in acute care, that support is available from independent advocates through the Aged Care Advocacy Line.

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When reporting about older people please refer to the [media reporting guidelines](#) and for more information or media enquiries visit our [Media Centre](#).

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO MEDIA FOR STORIES RELATING TO OLDER PEOPLE

It is critical to provide older people with an avenue to get support when covering stories about aged care. We strongly encourage you to include the following message in your story to enable older people to seek support:



For information or support regarding aged care, please call the Aged Care Advocacy Line on 1800 700 600 or visit open.org.au