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**For immediate release**

## **Clarity to Aged Care Funding Applauded**

**For immediate release**

The Victorian Healthcare Association (VHA) welcomes the proposal to streamline aged care and disability funding for Australians.

However, the VHA's CEO, Trevor Carr said it was important that care for elderly, frail and vulnerable Victorians isn't compromised through the transfer of funding arrangements.

"Should this move be adopted by the COAG in October; eight months is not a long time to change funding models and ensure patients and clients aren't going to slip through the cracks" Mr Carr said.

This is a move that had been foreshadowed by both the Federal and State Government in recent months. With the significant work currently being performed by the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission, the VHA hopes this change will take into account any other systemic reforms to health service delivery.

The increased financial commitment and State responsibility for mental health services is a welcome announcement. Like aged and disability services; mental health services receive less attention than other parts of the health system and have been the focus of funding initiatives at both the State and Federal Level. This adds to the public confusion regarding access and service delivery.

"Any increased funding and transparency is appreciated by a health sector working hard to achieve positive outcomes for their clients" said Mr Carr.

The VHA is the peak advocacy body representing public healthcare interests in Victoria. Its members include public hospitals, rural and regional health services, community health services and aged care facilities.

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