

## Media Release

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### Federal Budget on community aged care has two sides

The Federal Budget “has both positive and potentially negative outcomes regarding community aged care,” according to **Care Connect Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Paul Ostrowski**.

Whilst Mr. Ostrowski acknowledges the Federal Budget includes greater support to upskill the aged care workforce to handle the onset of the ‘Silver Tsunami’ he fears the budget lacks the funding required to pay workers competitively.

“For the community aged care sector it means we will find it hard to retain a highly skilled workforce. We run the risk of losing staff to other industries that can pay competitive rates.

“For our clients they risk losing the carers they have come to trust.

“The Productivity Commission Inquiry into Aged Care tells us that the number of Australians over 85 will grow from 400,000 in 2010 to over 1.8 million by 2050. By 2050, almost 1 in 4 Australians will be 65 or older.

“With the Silver Tsunami about to break, the sector will struggle to support the exponential growth in clients. Investment in upskilling the workforce is important but an appropriately funded workforce must take precedence,” says Mr. Ostrowski.

On a positive note Mr. Ostrowski says “Where the budget is progressive is in recognising that seniors would prefer more community aged care places over residential aged care places. The budget’s fine print shows the government is at least partially listening to seniors by rebalancing funding toward community care rather than residential care places.

“This small budget measure will have a positive impact for our seniors who want to remain independent and living at home,” says Mr. Ostrowski.

Mr. Ostrowski is calling for the government to clearly state how it will address the growing funding shortfall in aged care.

“If we are silent in this budget on workforce funding we need to be crystal clear in the next,” says Mr. Ostrowski.

### About Care Connect

Care Connect is a major community care provider that supports frail aged people, people with a disability and carers to live independently at home and in the community. Care Connect has offices nationally and is a not-for-profit, non denominational, registered charitable organisation.

Care Connect provides choice, guidance and information to support individuals to maintain independence and engagement in their community.

Care Connect’s approach is collaborative, inclusive and accessible. We are committed to providing a respectful service that values the rights of each individual and their support network.

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