

Andrew Broad MP

Federal Member for Mallee

Attachment 5.2

29 March 2019

Ms J Garone
 Chief Executive Officer
 Princes Court Retirement Village / Princes Court Homes
 PO Box 5007
 MILDURA VIC 3502

Dear Jenny

As you are aware I recently wrote to the Hon Ken Wyatt MP, Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care, regarding the plans for the redevelopment of Princes Court Homes and potential funding opportunities available.

Please find enclosed the response letter from Minister Wyatt's office.

I understand that this response does not provide the immediate opportunities you were hoping for, and is somewhat disappointing.

I encourage you to subscribe to any relevant funding announcement updates from the Federal Government, and to check the websites listed regularly for new grants.

I suggest that you also make an appointment to visit the new Federal Member for Mallee after the upcoming election, to continue to pursue this matter.

Wishing you all the best going forward with Princes Court Homes.

Kind regards



Andrew Broad MP
 Federal Member for Mallee

KT



26.3.19



The Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP
Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care
Minister for Indigenous Health
Member for Hasluck

COPY

Ref No: MC19-001922

The Hon Andrew Broad MP
 Member for Mallee
 PO Box 1133
 MILDURA VIC 3502

Andrew
 Dear Mr Broad

Thank you for your representations of 24 January 2019 on behalf of the Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of Princes Court Homes (PCH) regarding Commonwealth grant funding to support the redevelopment of its residential aged care service in Mildura, Victoria.

Under the Australian Government's funding framework for residential aged care, it is the responsibility of the approved aged care provider to meet the costs associated with the development, construction, maintenance and upgrade of aged care facilities. The residential aged care funding framework assumes that, in normal circumstances, providers have access to funding through Commonwealth Government subsidies, residents' accommodation payments, investors, or by borrowing, to sufficiently finance capital works and establish aged care facilities.

In very select circumstances, limited capital support is made available under the Rural, Regional and Other Special Needs Building Fund (the Fund). Capital grants under the Fund are made available as part of the Aged Care Approvals Round (ACAR). There is no scope to allocate grants from the Fund outside the competitive ACAR process.

I note PCH's advice that its redevelopment plans were not sufficiently progressed in time to make an application in the current ACAR, which was open from 2 July 2018 to 10 August 2018.

While this ACAR is now closed for applications, the information remains available on the ACAR website, which PCH may wish to access to familiarise itself with the streamlined ACAR process ahead of any future ACAR. The information can be accessed at www.agedcare.health.gov.au/funding/aged-care-approvals-round-acar/2018-19-aged-care-approvals-round.

The timing of the next ACAR is a decision of Government that has yet to be made. Further details concerning future ACAR processes will be made available on the Department of Health's website and via the Bulk Information Distribution System, closer to the time of any announcement.

I note PCH also raised the matter of recent grant allocations to the Maronite Eparchy of Australia, the Lebanese Muslim Association and Hillview Bunyip Aged Care, indicating these grants were "out of round" allocations made through my office.

The \$10 million grants allocated to the Maronite Eparchy of Australia and the Lebanese Muslim Association were a result of a Liberal National Government election commitment in 2013 and were funded through specific budget measures, separate to the ACAR capital grant appropriation.

The grant to Hillview Bunyip Aged Care was allocated under the Dementia and Aged Care Services (DACS) Fund. I am advised by the Department of Health there is insufficient funding available under the DACS Fund in order to consider an unsolicited proposal of this magnitude.

A range of funding and assistance opportunities from all levels of government can be explored via the Government's online resource at www.business.gov.au.

I would also encourage PCH to investigate alternative possible sources of funding via GrantConnect at www.grants.gov.au.

Thank you for raising this matter.

Yours sincerely



The Hon KEN WYATT AM, MP
Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care
Minister for Indigenous Health

14 MAR 2019



The Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP
Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care
Minister for Indigenous Health
Member for Hasluck

The Chair
 Princes Court Homes Inc
 PO Box 5007
 MILDURA VIC 3502

Dear Chair,

NEW FUNDING SUPPORT FOR RESIDENTIAL CARE SECTOR

On 10 February 2019 the Morrison Government announced a \$320 million funding boost for the residential aged care sector, which will see subsidy rates increase from 20 March 2019.

This new funding is designed to support you to deliver quality aged care services while the Government considers longer-term options for funding reform. The \$320 million is an up-front payment to support you over the next 18 months while the Royal Commission goes about its work.

The funding boost builds on our earlier investment of \$50 million to support providers transition to the new Quality Standards. It will be paid as a general proportionate increase in residential care basic subsidies of approximately 9.5% for residents in your care between 20 March and 30 June 2019. All providers will get the same proportionate increase to the ACFI and respite subsidy and to the subsidy paid to grand-parented residents under the former Resident Classification Scale.

The measure is a temporary increase and the higher rate of payment will cease on 30 June 2019. Subsidies payable from 1 July 2019 will revert to their normal level with the addition of full indexation of all subsidies from 1 July 2019.

The Government is continuing its work on longer term funding reform and has committed to a comprehensive trial of the new residential care funding tool and system that has been developed by the University of Wollongong. Extensive consultation with the sector on the proposed new tool and system will take place throughout the year. The trial and consultation process will inform options for a national roll-out of the new system.

Yours sincerely

The Hon KEN WYATT AM, MP
 Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care
 Minister for Indigenous Health