

Notes taken from Community Meeting held at ERG on Thursday 28th November 2019.

Improvements within the Aged Care Industry which would benefit rural and remote facilities and communities to keep the aged population within their local area:

- Scholarships for Aged Care Staff to encourage employment in Rural and Remote.
- Professional Registration for PCA Staff in Aged Care Profession, to recognise qualifications.
- Pathways for Aged Care Staff to “upskill”. By this we mean the convenience of telecommunications/remote education centres to allow prospective staff to train and acquire necessary qualifications without having to relocate or travel long distance.
- Remote allowance/incentives for employment of fulltime RN. By this we mean government financial assistance to assist with the wages and/or relocation, rental expenses for rural and remote aged care facilities which have no alternative but to employ an “out of the area” RN.
- Exemption for rural/remote or small boutique aged care facilities to employ a RN 7 x 24. The implementation of a framework whereby a care plan can be adapted to provide appropriate support to PCA staff via interactive telecommunications or phone advice. Specialised aged care “nurse on call” availability.
- Incentives for existing staff members to “upskill” in Aged Care Industry. By this we mean recognition of qualifications, government financial assistance to further study.
- How can the Australian Federal and State Governments filter funds/services out into Indigenous/extreme remote Communities yet will not support other rural and remote areas with the same equality of funds and services.
- Financial/human support to cover the implementation of the new Standard 8 into the Aged Care Industry. By this we mean the extra work undertaken by staff which require facilities to employ more staff to cover the shortfall taken off the “floor”.
- RTO providers within the Industry to comply with Compulsory Certification to recognised “Australian Standards”.
- Recognised official ratio between client and carer to be implemented.

- The financial impact on small boutique care facilities of meeting all the requirements of the new standards.
- The financial impact on small boutique care facilities on meeting the requirement of 7 x 24 RN. How to acquire those staff, how to keep them gainfully employed or a trade off for getting those staff into a small facility.
- ERG was established from a local benefactor with little government funding being made available for that project. It employs a staff of 42, 70% who reside locally to the township of Moulamein and rely heavily on the stable employment. Recognition from Federal Government in increasing the ACFI or equivalent funding resources to supplement ERG with the increasing inputs applied through legislation.
- Homecare packages which are sold within the local community then disqualify those residents from being eligible for HACC services which are offered as a Local Government Service.
- ACFI monies to be investigated to align with the inequalities of “fully funded” residents versus RAD residents to keep “profitable” rural and remote aged care facilities who are providing a service within the regional areas of Australia not only for the aged residents but providing employment.