

Government response to Royal Commission Interim Report: Not nearly enough

Dear Member,

Yesterday, the Morrison Government announced its response to the Interim Report of the Aged Care Royal Commission, released earlier this month.

Unfortunately, the commitment given by the Government yesterday is woefully inadequate. They have pledged \$537 million to address the recommendations of the report – a mere fraction of the billions they have taken out of the Aged Care budget in recent years.

The additional 10,000 places for home care packages announced yesterday won't come close to providing the services our elderly desperately need. That's not even 10% of the current shortfall in home packages.

Meanwhile, a measly \$10 million for training over two years is a drop in the ocean. We need a serious commitment to ensure that our aged care workforce can provide the best possible care to older Australians – not pocket change from a Government that couldn't care less.

Lastly, there is nothing in yesterday's announcement to address the crisis in residential aged care – nothing at all to help fix the desperate understaffing and underresourcing that HSU members are only too familiar with.

It's clear that Scott Morrison is hoping the issues in aged care will go away. Well, they're not going to, and neither are we.

Let's renew our commitment to campaign on this issue. We can't give up until our elderly get the respect and dignity they deserve, and aged care workers are given fair pay, adequate training, and recognition.

The Royal Commission won't hand down its final report for some months to come. Let's make sure that any government ignores its recommendations at its peril.

In unity,



Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD