



NZACA welcomes NZ Health Strategy

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The New Zealand Aged Care Association (NZACA), the peak membership body for the aged residential care sector, has welcomed the New Zealand Health Strategy and Road Map that was released by Health Minister Dr Jonathan Coleman this week.

"New Zealand faces many challenges with an ageing population, and the new Health Strategy shows that it will have a real focus on support for older people with high and complex needs", says NZACA Chief Executive Simon Wallace.

"We share the Minister of Health's ambition of a people-focused health system, where care is co-ordinated around the individual, says Mr Wallace.

The NZACA is participating in the development of the Health of Older People (HOP) Strategy that will flow on from the NZ Health Strategy.

"We are looking forward to working with the Government and officials on implementing both the Road Map and the HOP strategy when it is released", says Mr Wallace.

End.

For more information

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Key Facts & Figures

- NZACA is New Zealand's largest aged residential care membership organisation, representing 90% of the sector.
- There are around 666 aged residential care homes spread around New Zealand. The average aged care residential care home is 57 beds.

- 61% of homes are privately owned, 20% owned by a charitable/religious/welfare organisation and 19% are publicly listed.
- The number of people requiring residential care is steadily increasing and will continue to do so. The number of beds required for residential care will increase from the current 37,030 to 38,000 by 2016 and up to 52,000 by 2026.
- Every aged residential care home receives a subsidy for the elderly (65+) from the Government – wages account for 60% - 70% of costs.
- There are 30,000 caregivers and 5000 nurses working in aged residential care homes. District Health Boards manage eight additional facilities.