



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media statement

September 7, 2017

Blue Care Kingaroy certainty needed: Maranoa MP

MARANOA MP David Littleproud said seniors are a pillar of our rural communities and has asked Blue Care of its staffing intentions at Kingaroy's Canowindra centre after the aged care provider announced job cuts at its Bundaberg facility.

"I understand Blue Care has made changes to its operations at Bundaberg and this week met with staff at Canowindra so I've made urgent contact with this aged care provider to determine the future of nursing jobs at Kingaroy," Mr Littleproud said.

"I believe protecting and caring for our seniors – who built this nation – is a top priority and quality aged care and appropriate staffing levels are fundamental to this.

"That's why aging in place is a core value for the Coalition Government – especially in rural areas. Seniors are valued members of our community and deserve the aged care services and support to stay in our country towns as their needs change."

As at June 30, 2016, the Blue Care Kingaroy Canowindra Aged Care Facility had 60 operational residential aged care places and received \$4.3 million in Federal Government funding in 2015-16. This was a funding increase of \$400,000 when compared to 2014-15 where Canowindra received 3.9 million in Federal Government funding.

The Federal Government does not mandate roster hours or staffing levels in aged care facilities. The staffing level and mix is left to the provider but – under the *Aged Care Act 1997* – the provider must provide appropriate levels of care to meet the nursing and personal needs of the residents.

Commonwealth-funded aged care homes are required by law to meet the Accreditation Standards. The standards require aged care homes to maintain an adequate number of appropriately skilled staff to ensure the care needs of care recipients are met.

Requirements will also change over time within individual homes as changes occur in the mix of care recipients' needs.

It is estimated the Federal Government will provide \$12.5 billion for residential aged care in 2017-18, which will increase to \$14.5 billion in 2020-21.

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