



## David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

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# Media Statement

July 5, 2018

### **REGIONAL PRIORITY AS RECORD AGED CARE OFFERING OPENS**

Existing and prospective aged care providers in the federal electorate of Maranoa are being encouraged to apply for a share in a record offering of more than 14,000 new aged care places, with a special focus on rural, regional and remote locations.

With the 2018-19 Aged Care Approvals Round (ACAR) opening on July 2, Federal Member for Maranoa David Littleproud said this year's allocation was a result of the Coalition Government's \$5 billion aged care Budget boost.

"It's a tragedy for rural communities when our seniors are forced to move away from family, friends and everything they have ever known to a larger town or city to receive care as their needs change," Mr Littleproud said.

"Seniors are an essential part our social fabric.

"To help our seniors stay in the rural communities they love – and where they are loved – the Coalition aims to improve aged care access in regional, rural and remote Australia.

"For seniors living in Maranoa, access to services, suitable housing, and social connectedness can be difficult at times. That's why this investment is so important as it will help more people have access to high-quality, higher-level aged care services."

A total of 13,500 new residential care places and 775 short-term restorative care places are on offer across the nation, along with \$60 million in capital grants for aged care construction and expansion.

"Being socially active and engaged in the community keeps you healthy both mentally and physically. We are prioritising aged care in regional areas to keep residents connected to their communities."

There will be a further \$40 million available in 2019 for rural, regional and remote aged care construction.

The 2018-19 ACAR application period is open for six weeks, from July 2 until August 10.

Application forms and guidelines are now available on the Department of Health website: <https://agedcare.health.gov.au/funding/aged-care-approvals-round-acar/2018-19-aged-care-approvals-round>

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**Media Contact:**

Annabelle Douglas

M: 0468 901 548

E: [annabelle.douglas@aph.gov.au](mailto:annabelle.douglas@aph.gov.au)

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