



MEDIA RELEASE

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BROKEN PROMISES LEAVE OLDER AUSTRALIANS IN CRISIS

Federal Member for Grey Tom Venning will be hosting a community forum along with Shadow Minister for Health, Aged Care and the NDIS Senator Anne Ruston in Peterborough on October 3 to address the ongoing aged care crisis as well as health and NDIS issues.

Grey has an ageing population, making aged care a critical issue for many across 92.3% of South Australia. And with the Government's new Aged Care Act that comes into effect from November 1, **more issues and confusion are expected.**

Regional areas face unique challenges in aged care delivery including long travel times to appointments, the unavailability of qualified staff and lack of provider options.

These issues have been exacerbated by Labor's aged care failures, including:

- **108,924** older Australians (as of July) stuck waiting on the National Priority System for a home care package they have been assessed as needing.
- A further **121,596** older Australians currently waiting to be assessed for a home care package.
- In total, **more than 230,000** older Australians have been left stuck in limbo waiting for access to home care support under Labor.

While the recent victory in forcing Labor to cave and release 20,000 home care packages immediately and the full 83,000 by the end of this financial year is something to celebrate, there is still a long way to go to ensure older Australians receive the support they need and deserve.

The impact of Labor's broken promises extends far beyond statistics. Across the electorate of Grey, families are facing impossible choices and heartbreaking situations due to the Government's failure to deliver promised care.

Quotes attributable to Member for Grey Tom Venning

"This is a crisis caused by the Government's broken promises. It should have never happened. People should not have died while waiting for care."

"Our elderly deserve dignity, not waiting lists. They deserve care, not broken promises. They deserve to live out their final years with support, not with fear that help will come too late."



TOM VENNING MP

Member for Grey



“As a nation, we are well aware of the fact Australians are getting older and will need care – it is disappointing that our Government is ill prepared for our ageing population, particularly in rural South Australia.

“That’s why Senator Anne Ruston and I will be heading to Peterborough on October 3 to host an aged care forum. We want to hear the issues and concerns of people in Grey.”

Quotes attributable to Shadow Minister for Health, Aged Care and the NDIS Senator Anne Ruston

“It is a black mark on this Government that support has been withheld from hundreds of older Australians who desperately need it.

“While forcing Labor to promise to immediately release 20,000 packages was a victory for older Australians, there’s a lot more work to do to ensure that older Australians are getting the care they need, when they need it.

“The Coalition will continue to fight for older Australians, with one clear goal; no one should have to wait for the care they have been assessed as needing.”

Quotes attributable to Susanne Dadleh, 77, Marree

Susanne’s husband, Ron, passed away. He suffered from bowel cancer, diabetes and heart problems. He had been assessed for a home care package, waited over 12 months and did not receive it before his death. Susanne is currently having difficulties with the care she is receiving due to living remotely.

“What could go wrong, went wrong with his health.

“I had to have our bathroom renovated to put in a shower as the shower was over the bath and Ron couldn’t step into the tub. That cost us over \$11,000 with no assistance.

“We purchased a wheelchair, shower chair and a walker to help him and hired a kitchen chair with arms. He desperately needed an adjustable bed, and our home care provider promised Ron one, but we received nothing.

“I sometimes wish I had never got a home care package because instead of helping me, it has caused me more stress and inconvenience.”

Quotes attributable to Jannene Dalby, 71, Wallaroo

Jannene suffers from Inducible Laryngeal Obstruction, which has no cure. She was forced to retire four years ago because of her condition, ending her 50-year nursing



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career. Jannene decided she needed help in May 2024, was approved for support but was told there were no packages available.

"This is a very debilitating and insidious condition which has changed my life completely.

"I am now at the point where I need a Level 1 aged care package but have been told that I won't get one because they are not giving them out.

"My daughter has taken over the role as carer because I get overwhelmed with the system as I can't talk after a short period of time.

"Inducible Laryngeal Obstruction is something that I have to live with each and every day. Each attack is different, triggers vary, and I am still trying to understand my situation. What I do understand is that I am and will struggle to manage by myself without some basic support at home that I honestly believe I require and deserve."

Quotes attributable to Judith Trainer, 73, Edithburgh

Judith looks after her 99-year-old mother while they wait for her to be reassessed. Her mother, Marjory Parker, is currently on a Level 3 home care package after suffering from a stroke a few years ago. Judith asked for her mother to be reassessed 18 months ago and is still waiting.

"Her health has deteriorated to a point where she needs showering and helping with her ablutions.

"I am her daughter and do not have a problem with this, but it means I can no longer lead a normal life.

"The staff numbers for aged care in this country are abysmal and it doesn't seem like anyone is addressing this health problem for regional areas.

"I'm worried that she will die before she is reassessed."

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