

# DOING WHAT'S RIGHT FOR AUSTRALIA

The Howard Government



## BETTER AGED CARE

The Howard Government is determined that Australia keeps faith with those who have contributed so much to the building of our country and to provide older Australians who need it, the quality of care they deserve.

The Howard Government is also determined to ensure our Aged Care system is sustainable into the future, in the face of an ageing population (whereby the number of Australians aged over 65 is expected to double over the next 40 years).

A stronger economy has enabled the Howard Government to substantially increase investment in the care of older Australians and veterans. (See table below)

Equally important have been the Government's reforms to aged care which have laid the foundations for better quality care, an expansion of aged care places and improved qualifications and skills for the aged care workforce.

As a result of the initiatives introduced in the 2004/05 and 2007/08 Budgets, the Australian Government will, by the end of 2011, be providing

subsidies for over 250,000 aged care places. This means that, between 1996 and 2011, the Australian Government will have increased the number of aged care places by over 100,000 (around 53,000 operational residential aged care places and around 51,000 community care packages).

The Howard Government has made dementia an Australian Government National Health Priority and substantially increased the attention given to this debilitating health problem.

In the last four Budgets, the Howard Government has recognised the invaluable work of carers by providing recipients of Carer Payment and Carer Allowance a bonus of \$1,000 and \$600 respectively. \$207.6 million over four years was provided in the 2005/06 Budget for initiatives that provide up to 1.3 million days of respite to an estimated 50,000 carers.

The Howard Government will continue to work hard to look after older Australians.

	Labor	Coalition	Increase	Increase (REAL)
Total number of operational Aged Care Places	141,292 (95/96)	208,698 (Dec 2006)	48%	
Total Aged Care Funding	\$3.1 bill (95/96)	\$8.7 bill (07/08)	181%	(99%)
Health Care for Veterans	\$1.6 bill (95/96)	\$4.7 bill (07/08)	194%	(108%)

Real increase = Funding increase AFTER taking into account the cost of living increase over this time.  
The population aged 70+ has increased by around 28%.



For more information about our achievements and plans for the future

