

Media Release  
For Immediate Release

15 April 2024

## **Aged Care Industry Association Responds to Government Funding Submission for Wage Increases**

The Aged Care Industry Association (ACIA) acknowledges the government's commitment to fully fund stage three wage increases for direct and indirect care workers as outlined in [their submission](#) to the Fair Work Commission. This submission details the government's plans to address the financial implications for aged care providers, including associated on-costs.

While ACIA appreciates the government's significant commitment, concerns remain regarding the proposed timeline and structure of the funding. The government has indicated support for a January 2025 start date for the wage increase for indirect care workers, with the increase for direct care workers to be distributed in two equal payments, each spaced 12 months apart starting from January 2025.

ACIA CEO, Peter Hoppo, stated, "We recognise and welcome the government's decision to fund these much-needed wage increases. However, since the Fair Work Decision highlights the historical undervaluation of aged care staff—particularly given the sector's predominantly female workforce—it is perplexing why these increases would not be implemented immediately."

Considering the Fair Work Commission might set an earlier effective date for the wage increases, ACIA urges the government to provide public assurance that it will fund the increases from that date to cover increased costs.

"The Commission's decision underscores the need for immediate action to correct the long-standing undervaluation of aged care workers and to support the sustainability of quality care," Mr. Hoppo added. "We call on the government to ensure that no aged care provider is left financially burdened should the Fair Work Commission set an earlier effective date for the wage increases."

ACIA remains committed to advocating for appropriate legislative, regulatory, and funding frameworks that ensure the effective delivery of high-quality services to older Australians.

### **End of Release**

#### **For further information, please contact:**

Peter Hoppo  
Chief Executive Officer  
Aged Care Industry Association  
Email: [ceo@acia.asn.au](mailto:ceo@acia.asn.au)  
Phone: 08 8338 6500