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'PROTECT AUSSIE AGED CARE': FUNDING STABILITY NEEDED IN 2017 BUDGET

With one week to go until Budget night, the Aged Care Guild is renewing calls for the Turnbull Government to guarantee it will make no further cuts to Australia's aged care sector in this year's Budget.

In recent years, aged care has suffered a series of consecutive cuts. Funding to the sector was reduced by \$1.2 billion in the 2016 Budget.

Last month, the Aged Care Guild launched the 'Protect Aussie Aged Care' campaign to give a strong voice to Australia's aged care residents and workers and to illustrate the negative impact further funding cuts would have.

"The 'Protect Aussie Aged Care' campaign has received significant support from right around the country," Cameron O'Reilly, CEO of the Aged Care Guild said.

"With Australia's aging population, the industry is facing major challenges in meeting the growing demand of services and delivering the 76,000 new beds that are required by 2026. We are concerned that further cuts will impact aged care providers' ability to provide the best quality care to residents.

"We ask the Federal Government to rule out that there will be any further cuts to the aged care sector in next week's Budget. The sector needs funding stability to ensure the continued quality services that our elderly Australians need and rely upon," Mr O'Reilly said.

The \$1.2 billion cut to the *Aged Care Funding Instrument (ACFI)* in last year's Budget followed a \$472 million reduction in funding in 2015 MYEFO, the freezing of indexation in 2012 and the removal of the Payroll Tax supplement in the 2014 Budget.

Further information about this important issue can be found at:
<http://protectaussieagedcare.com.au>.

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About the Aged Care Guild:

- its members have 416 facilities with 36,277 beds and a further 4,394 beds under construction;
- The Guild's members employ approximately 48,000 people, including over 4,800 nurses and 25,000 care workers
- The Guild's members are responsible for \$5.6 billion of refundable accommodation deposits.
- In the most recent Aged Care Approval Round (ACAR) Guild members were awarded around 30% of new places.