

POLICY 2014

# HEALTH: AGED CARE



## SECURING THE FUTURE OF QUALITY CARE

National is committed to ensuring older New Zealanders have the security and wellbeing they deserve.

National has a comprehensive plan to secure the future of quality care for older New Zealanders. It is built on improving standards and accountability – not bureaucracy.

National will continue to progress changes to home-based support to help older people maximise their independence and continue to be safe and self-sufficient living in their own homes.

Over the next ten years, one of the challenges facing the public health service will be the increase in the population aged over 80.

The Government has been preparing for this demographic change by investing over \$200 million more in services to care for older New Zealanders. We have expanded the availability of support available in the home, increased the number of dementia beds available by 25 per cent, boosted funding for aged care nursing, and improved the quality of auditing and monitoring of rest homes.

### POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

- Increase the rest home bed subsidy rate by five per cent, effective from 1 October 2014. This means an increase of \$10 million a year in public funding for rest home providers.
- Put in place a new model of care for older people.

## NATIONAL IS...



### INVESTING MORE FUNDING IN AGED RESIDENTIAL CARE

- ✓ Increased spending on aged residential care from \$744 million in 2008/09, to \$985 million this year – a 30 per cent increase.



### IMPROVING QUALITY OF CARE FOR OLDER PEOPLE

- ✓ Improving the monitoring and auditing of rest homes.
- ✓ Improving the transparency of rest home audits by making both full and summary audit reports available through an easy-to-use website.
- ✓ Continued support for older New Zealanders to be healthier and more independent in their own homes.
- ✓ Introduced regular reporting of district health board performance against key health quality and safety markers to drive improvements in patient safety. These markers track the level of harm and cost associated with a particular health issue and promote simple, proven measures to reduce the risk of patient harm.

**21,000**  
EXTRA ELECTIVE  
OPERATIONS  
FOR OVER 65s



THIS YEAR COMPARED TO 2008

## OUR RESULTS SO FAR

### LIFTING ACCESS TO DEMENTIA CARE

- Increased the number of dementia beds across the country by over 25 per cent since 2008.
- Introduced dementia care pathways which encourage all health and social services to work together to provide seamless and integrated care.

### IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF REST HOME ASSESSMENTS

- On track to have all older people receiving home support or in aged residential care assessed at least twice a year using a standardised clinical assessment tool. This assessment looks at 22 aspects of health care, and enables personalised care plans to be updated and modified as required.

### MORE ELDERLY BEING SUPPORTED IN THEIR OWN HOMES

- Providing thousands more elderly New Zealanders with both home support and personal care to enable them to remain living independently in their own homes.
- Lifted the number of hours of home support from 9.3 million hours in 2008/09, to 10.9 million this year.

### BETTER HOSPITAL SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY

- Reduced waiting times for cancer patients ready for chemo or radiation treatment to 4 weeks - the world gold standard.
- 21,000 extra patients over the age of 65 are now receiving elective operations each year.

## WHAT WE WILL DO NEXT...

### 1. FURTHER SUPPORT REST HOME CARE

- **Increase the rest home bed subsidy by 5 per cent, from 1 October 2014.**

This is an equivalent \$10 million a year increase in public funding for rest home providers.

- **Roll out regular comprehensive clinical assessments of each of the 32,000 older New Zealanders living in rest homes.**

This investment will provide ongoing support and training for nurses and rest homes from July 2015.

- **Continue to work closely with the sector to deliver the best possible care for residents.**

### 2. PUT IN PLACE A NEW MODEL OF CARE FOR OLDER PEOPLE

- **Work to improve services for rest home residents by better integrating care between GPs, pharmacies, hospitals, and rest homes.**

A new model of care is being progressed across New Zealand's 20 DHBs, packaging together an older person's home help funding with healthcare funding, to deliver a new, more flexible package that's tailored to the individual.

## DON'T PUT IT ALL AT RISK

### Labour would:

- ✘ Deliver more bureaucracy, committees, strategies and working groups, at the expense of frontline health services.