



young people in nursing homes
creating a pathway from aged care to appropriate care

CALL TO ACTION

In 2006, a successful long-term community campaign resulted in a five year Council of Australian Governments (COAG) commitment to get young people out of nursing homes and prevent them entering nursing homes in the first place. Despite the success of the \$60.4 million program in Victoria, there are still expected to be around 1600 people under 65 in residential aged care at the end of the five year period. The *Victorian Young People in Nursing Homes Consortium* held a summit in June 2010 to develop a community response in preparation for the final year of the Victorian and Commonwealth government's current commitment. This is our **Call to Action**.

1. Beyond 2011 – Sustained Investment from Commonwealth and State/Territory Governments

- a) **State and federal governments to commit to another 5 years of targeted funding to build upon the initial gains for Young People in Nursing Homes (YPINH), to address the un-met needs of those still without adequate support.**
- b) **State government to continue to invest in:**
 - o *Transitional and longer-term accommodation alternatives to Residential Aged Care (RAC);*
 - o *Individualised packages to divert younger people at risk of admission to RAC into more appropriate accommodation, to enhance the delivery of specialist disability services to those who remain in RAC.*
- c) **State government to develop accommodation and support models that bring together Disability, Rehabilitation, Health, Aged Care and Housing sectors in partnership.**

2. Continuing Effort to Engage and Support Young People and Families

- a) **State policy development that:**
 - o *Is holistic, comprehensive and flexible;*
 - o *Is rights-based;*
 - o *Recognises changing individual needs;*
 - o *Is underpinned by community engagement principles.*
- b) **State policy responses and programs that are embedded in local community to:**
 - o *Prevent isolation/facilitate access;*
 - o *Give prominence to the maintenance of friendship groups/core communities;*
 - o *Reflect the needs of diverse communities (including Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders).*
- c) **Information/education/opportunities that are targeted to people directly affected.**

3. Continued Work on Systemic Barriers

a) State and federal governments to lead cross-sectoral solutions across disability, rehabilitation, health, aged care and housing.

b) State policy and programs to develop targeted ways to support the needs of young people :

- With high medical support needs;
- With behavioural and cognitive support needs;
- Who are 50 plus.

c) State and federal governments to prioritise work on barriers created by:

- The absence of health and rehabilitation in the National Disability Standards;
- Gaps in training, recruitment and retention of suitably experienced and cross-disciplinary staff.

August 2010



SUMMER
FOUNDATION

