

18 August 2015

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ACAR 2015

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ACAR 2015

DSS announced on Saturday the largest ever Aged Care Approvals Round, with 10,940 residential aged care places available, plus 6045 home care places and \$67 million in capital grants.

Residential Care

- Queensland leads the states with 3120 new residential places.
- Victoria is a close second with 3080 new places, including a massive 750 places for Eastern Metro.
- DSS continues to throw up some surprising allocation numbers with an extraordinary 416 places advertised for Far North Queensland, the region centred on Cairns. There are only 1579 places currently operating in the entire Far North region and this number grew by only 177 places in the five years to 30 June 2014. Despite making 765 places available over the last five years of ACARs, only 372 were taken up, many of which are not yet built. It seems difficult to expect a further 416 would be needed in one year!

Home Care

- There is a welcome disappearance of Level 1 places coupled with strong growth in Level 3 and Level 4 packages in all areas, except WA and ACT.

(WA and ACT are well above the benchmarks of Level 4 packages already.)

- Only 7.4% of the new home care places are Level 2 places.
- Most new places are Level 3 – some 3701 places or 61.2% of the allocation. As there are only 3803 Level 3 places in the country, this ACAR almost doubles their availability! This should have a fairly dramatic effect on home care provision in Australia, particularly when coupled with the additional 1894 Level 4 places.

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