



## Media release

24 February 2017

### **Suncare to provide new flexible aged care places for older Australians**

National in-home aged care specialist Suncare Community Services, with headquarters on the Sunshine Coast, has been awarded 44 short-term restorative care places for people who are experiencing illness or who have suffered an injury, from prematurely entering residential aged care.

The Short-Term Restorative Care places provide an innovative new form of flexible aged care that will help older people remain in their own homes for longer after injury or illness.

Suncare was one of 35 aged care providers across Australia who received the Short-Term Restorative Care places as part of the Australian Government's 2016-17 Aged Care Approvals Round.

Suncare Chief Executive Russell Mason said the new packages would provide older people on the Sunshine Coast with a range of different services for up to two months, improving their overall wellbeing and independence and could postpone, or even alleviate the need for long-term care.

"Being awarded this program is testament to the hard work and innovation that Suncare is doing to ensure it stays ahead in a period of intense and disruptive change in the aged care industry.

"It also strengthens our position as a leader in restorative care services and builds on our existing Transition Care Program services which assist older people to return home after a hospital stay."

Mr Mason said if an older person suffered a fall at home and was approved for Short-term Restorative Care, Suncare could arrange for physical therapy with the support of the person's doctor and allied health professionals, who would work together to also identify potential hazards in their home and get them back on their feet.

"This new program is a perfect fit for Suncare's vision of making people's lives better.

"We will also be using newly developed sensor technology as part of the program, providing real-time information about customers to ensure services are tailored to their changing needs as they recover," Mr Mason said.

"For example, the sensors will monitor a person's physical activity or lack of movement, if doors are open or closed, as well as providing notifications and alerts about room temperature, meals, or shopping tasks."

The Minister for Aged Care, Ken Wyatt AM, who announced the Short-Term Restorative Care places on 23 February, said the program would help older people to manage daily tasks, maintain their independence and stay in their homes for as long as possible.

"Short-Term Restorative Care is just that – helping people age well and access care when and where they need it on an 'as-needs' basis.

"The care plan is designed with, and approved by, the person receiving the care and can be delivered at home, in an aged care home or a combination of both," Mr Wyatt said.

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