THE HON MARK BUTLER MP
Minister for Mental Health and Ageing

MEDIA RELEASE

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TRAINING BOOST FOR THOUSANDS OF AGED CARE WORKERS

A major boost to Australia’s aged care workforce is a step closer following a call today by the Government to invite eligible registered training organisations to apply to deliver accredited courses that will upgrade the skills of several thousand aged care workers.

In the funding round announced today, the Australian Government will make about $47 million available to training organisations, aged care providers and industry groups under the Supporting a Professional Aged Care Workforce Program.

This will provide training ranging from short courses through to full aged care certificates in Vocational Education and Training and enrolled nursing qualifications. It will also support the sector to provide high quality student nurse clinical placements and to help graduate nurses to transition into practice.

Today’s announcement by the Australian Government is part of the $232 million being provided over four years to boost the support and opportunities aged care workers need to develop their skills and qualifications. This will help deliver significant health reform.

This is because qualified aged care workers are essential for the delivery of quality aged care. Aged care workers, in turn, need opportunities to develop the skills that will enable them to pursue successful careers in the aged care industry.

Australia has an ageing society, which has led to remarkable growth in the aged care sector— which now provides care for a million older people in residential care, as well as in their own homes.

From today, eligible registered training organisations, in collaboration with aged care services, will be able to apply to the Department of Health and Ageing for:
- More than 4,650 certificate training places under the Aged Care Workforce Vocational Education & Training (ACWVET) 2011 initiative for personal care workers who deliver direct care to residents in residential or community aged care services; and.
- Approximately 1,750 short course training places for services in outer regional, remote and very remote Australia.

In addition, the Government will support up to 400 additional graduate nurse transition-to-practice training placements in aged care over four years under the Aged Care Nurse Graduate Placements Initiative and 640 student nurse clinical training places under the Aged Care Nursing Clinical Placements Initiative.

Further details and application forms are at www.health.gov.au/tenders and organisations must register on the department’s website to download these documents.

As well, registered training organisations approved by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia will be invited to apply to deliver up to 800 training places leading to qualification as an enrolled nurse. In 2011 the department will fund training towards the Diploma of Nursing (HLT51607) and, in Victoria only, for the Certificate IV in Nursing (HLT43407).

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