



Media Release

Monday, 12 December 2011

ACSA DELIGHTED BY MINISTER'S CABINET APPOINTMENT

ACSA is delighted at Prime Minister Julia Gillard's announcement today that Mark Butler has been promoted to Cabinet in the capacity as Minister for Mental Health and Ageing as well as Minister for Social Inclusion.

Immediately following the Prime Minister's Press Conference, ACSA National President, Rob Hankins, said that this is the first time that the ageing portfolio has been elevated to Cabinet status; a clear recognition by the Government of the significance of the ageing and aged care agenda.

"This is a move that Australia's ageing population deserves and we are confident that Minister Butler's promotion will consolidate even further his demonstrated commitment to the aged care sector which we look forward to being reflected in the 2012/13 Budget," Mr Hankins said.

Minister Butler's elevation to Cabinet and the addition of social inclusion comes on the same day as the release of the *Final Report on the Economic Potential of Senior Australians: Turning Grey into Gold*.

This report, to which ACSA made a submission, makes recommendations aimed at capturing the opportunities an ageing population brings and will form an important part of the social inclusion agenda, which includes work, housing and aged care support.

"The aged care industry is well placed to take on these challenges," Mr Hankins said. "The aged care industry has a strong facilitative role in harnessing the opportunities presented to the nation by senior Australians and we look forward to discussing this with Minister Butler."

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