



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Windsor welcomes Aged Care funding announcements to Bundarra and Barraba

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor is delighted that the Federal Minister for Aging, the Hon Kevin Andrews MP has used his visit to the New England electorate today to make some important funding announcements for aged care services in Bundarra and Barraba.

“It is particularly pleasing to see funding of \$140,000 for the Bundarra Aged Care facility.

The community of Bundarra and Uralla Shire are to be congratulated for their initiative and persistence in achieving this outcome.

Aged care is very important to our communities, both large and small.

The ability for people to grow old where they have lived and contributed to their communities is something that must be recognised if our smaller towns are going to have an opportunity to maintain a population base that will enable keep them viable into the future,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor believes that the service being developed for the provision of aged care in Bundarra could be used as a model for other small country communities.

“The formula that has been used to this point for the distribution of aged care beds does not take into account remoteness, size of community nor distance to travel.

The extension of a larger more established facility to a smaller community should help provide economies of scale in administration yet ensure the provision of the service needed by people in the smaller community.

It’s a real win for smaller communities who in the past have struggled to meet the formula criteria and therefore lost their older community members to larger centres away from family, friends and familiar surroundings,” Mr Windsor said.

“Minister Andrews has indicated by his support for the Bundarra Aged Care facility that he is prepared to think laterally about the provision of aged care services to smaller communities and I congratulate him,” Mr Windsor said.

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