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## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Baptist Care Australia welcomes additional aged care support**

Baptist Care Australia welcomes the announcement of an additional \$205 million emergency funding to support the aged care sector in its continuing response to COVID-19, as announced on Friday 1 May by the Federal Government.

Executive Director of Baptist Care Australia, Nicole Hornsby, thanked the Government in acknowledging the high costs involved in implementing COVID-19 safety measures including additional staffing, cleaning, and technology for social connection.

“Aged care providers have been implementing a range of activities to keep residents safe but also connected to family and the people they love to try and limit any adverse effect of social distancing. This announcement is a positive step forward in continuing to protect society’s most vulnerable and acknowledges the boundless hard work of those working on the ground throughout this pandemic. We look forward to working with government on the further support that is needed to keep older Australian’s safe,” said Mrs Hornsby.

Together with other provider peak organisations, Baptist Care Australia has also contributed to a draft Visitor Access Code which has been developed to ensure the sector continues to balance the need for strict protective protocols with the highest quality and compassionate care to ensure the overall wellbeing of those in aged care.

Executive Director, Nicole Hornsby also acknowledged the importance of the Visitor Access Code in providing clarity to residents and families, whom the vast majority have been understanding and supportive of the imposed measures so far.

“Maintaining the wellbeing and mental health of residents and their families, whilst stopping the spread of coronavirus is our utmost priority throughout COVID-19, we look forward to seeing clarity on this topic”.

Baptist Care Australia will continue to work collaboratively with other sector peaks and organisations, alongside the Commonwealth Government to ensure that senior Australians continue to receive the best quality care and fullness of life they deserve amidst this pandemic.

**ENDS**

**Media Contact:** Nicole Hornsby, Executive Director [nicole.hornsby@baptistcareaustralia.org.au](mailto:nicole.hornsby@baptistcareaustralia.org.au)

[Baptist Care Australia](http://baptistcareaustralia.org.au) works to bring equality and opportunity to Australian communities. We are a voice for hope, speaking out for a fair society that includes and respects everyone. Our advocacy is backed by the practical care and support our members give to thousands of people each year across the country.