

## MEDIA RELEASE

11 May 2010

### **CHA: Federal Budget a boon to sustainable aged care**

Catholic Health Australia (CHA) tonight welcomed the Federal Government's commitment to improve access, sustainability and quality in aged care.

Measures to train and retain the medical and aged care workforce – including those that have been previously announced – are particularly timely, CHA CEO Martin Laverty said.

“With an ageing population and an under-supply of medical, aged care and allied health workers, it is important to ensure we have enough qualified people to care for all Australians now and in the future,” Mr Laverty said.

“However, CHA is disappointed to learn the Government has cancelled the Bringing The Nurses Back to the Workforce program.”

CHA welcomes the following initiatives in particular:

- \$59.9m to help aged care workers upgrade their qualifications
- \$18.7m for nurse practitioners in aged care
- \$7m to increase and support business efficiency in aged care
- \$3.5m to better distribute personal carers under a national registration scheme
- \$500,000 to study the skills and residential care needs in aged care

“Most of tonight's Budget has addressed the requirement to implement the health reform agenda,” Mr Laverty said.

“Measures to enable development of activity-based funding and the reform Transition Office will progress the reform agenda.”