

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****15 SEPTEMBER 2017**

## **More on the plate for Meals on Wheels**

Earlier this year, national peak body the Australian Meals on Wheels Association (AMOWA) called for a modest additional investment to address the funding inequities in each State, and to stop struggling services having to raise fees to their customers.

This morning the iconic service rejoiced after the announcement by the Federal Minister for Aged Care, Ken Wyatt, of an additional \$8 million in government support.

AMOWA President, Nelson Mathews, says this announcement is great news and the government's intention to allocate the extra funding in a more equitable way has been welcomed by all the clients, volunteers and staff of AMOWA.

"Services struggling with cost pressures have been forced to raise the price of meals to their customers to levels we think are unacceptable, this additional Commonwealth Home Support Program funding will help stall further price hikes for those who can least afford them," Mr Mathews said.

"Many chronically underfunded Meals on Wheels services will now receive extra funding to bring them closer to par with other services in Australia with the Government intending to contribute a minimum of \$4.70 towards the cost of this iconic service.

"The government has recognised the massive return in down-stream community benefits and health savings it gains through preventative care services like Meals on Wheels."

Australians of all ages have access to receiving Meals on Wheels including those living with mental or physical disabilities as well as older members of the community, all of who benefit from the three services provided that is bundled into one.

- **Nourish** - Clients receive a well-balanced and nutritious meal
- **Care** – Clients are provided with vital social contact, monitoring of health and well-being
- **Connect Communities** - Volunteers are the heart of Meals on Wheels. This engagement and sense of purpose has a massive positive impact on countless people across the communities Meals on Wheels operates

Meals on Wheels services throughout Australia nourish, care and connect communities, by delivering over 10 million Meals on Wheels meals to more than 120,000 clients Australia-wide in cities, regional and rural areas each year.

For more information visit [www.mealsonwheels.org.au](http://www.mealsonwheels.org.au) or refer to the attached additional statistics document.

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**ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN MEALS ON WHEELS ASSOCIATION (AMOWA)**

The Australian Meals on Wheels Association (AMOWA) represents a network of more than 600 independently-run, local non-profit services that operate in virtually every Australian community. From its inception more than 60 years ago, Meals on Wheels has grown to become a driving force of care in local communities. While each service's operations varies based on the needs and resources of their communities and its historic supplemental government funding, they are all committed to supporting vulnerable Australians to live healthier and more nourished lives in their own homes. AMOWA provides proactive and strategic national leadership and a clear coherent voice on matters that affect Meals on Wheels' recipients, volunteers and staff and the local communities in which they are placed.

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