

Older Persons Covid 19 Support Line Extended

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National Seniors Australia is pleased at the Minister for Aged Care's announcement today that the Older Persons COVID 19 Support Line has been extended until June 30, 2021.

The investment of \$2.5 million from the federal government will enable National Seniors Australia as well as other advocacy and support groups for seniors, to continue the vital work in assisting some of our most vulnerable people through the pandemic which is still with us.

National Seniors Chief Executive, Professor John McCallum said the support line has proven to be effective in reaching out to older Australians at a time of need.

"As the Minister has pointed out, the support line has received more than 5,000 inbound calls between April and October and made more than 29,000 outbound calls over the same period," Professor McCallum said.

"We're also proud of the government's announcement the service will be extended to carers of people with dementia and older Australians from Cultural and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds."

This will see the engagement of the Partners in Culturally Appropriate Care (PICAC) Alliance.

"On behalf of National Seniors Australia, I want to publicly thank Aged Care Minister, Senator Richard Colbeck and the federal government for the support National Seniors and other organisations have received since this initiative began," said Professor McCallum.

The Older Persons COVID 19 Support Line is a joint initiative of National Seniors Australia, Council on the Ageing (COTA), Dementia Australia and the Older Persons Advocacy Network and is funded by the federal government.

Older Australians who need more information or are concerned about the pandemic and need to talk to someone should call 1800 171 866.

National Seniors is a not-for-profit organisation committed to making a real difference in communities across Australia.

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