WAIT TIMES FOR AGED CARE EXPLODE UNDER THE LIBERALS

Waiting times for aged care have grown by almost 300% under the Liberals with older Australians across the country forced into lengthy queues for care.

New data has revealed the median waiting time for older Australians going into residential aged care has grown by more than 100 days over the last six years under the Liberals.

Across the country this means older Australians who are desperate and approved for care are waiting longer and longer to enter nursing homes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>NSW</th>
<th>Vic</th>
<th>Qld</th>
<th>WA</th>
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<th>Tas</th>
<th>ACT</th>
<th>NT</th>
<th>Aus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012-13 (days waiting):</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018-19 (days waiting):</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>152</td>
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- MEDIAN ELAPSED TIME  FOR PERMANENT RESIDENTS WAITING TO ENTER AGED CARE, PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION, REPORT ON GOVERNMENT SERVICES, JANUARY 2020

Waiting times for older Australians waiting for home care they have been approved for has also blown out over the last two years.

These figures are yet another wake-up call for the Morrison Government on the terrible state of our country’s aged care system.

Older Australians deserve our respect but under the Liberals all they get is growing waiting times for care that they have been approved for.

The new figures come just weeks after it was revealed almost 30,000 older Australians passed away in just two years while waiting for a home care package.

This is completely unacceptable - what will it take for the Prime Minister to finally fix this crisis?

As waiting times have blown out, the Morrison Government has simply announced one stopgap measure after another instead of properly fixing this issue despite its own Royal Commission’s Interim Report telling it to fix home care wait lists.
The Liberals have been asleep at the wheel for six years, with four Ministers and billions ripped out while Australia’s aged care system lurched from one crisis to another.

Scott Morrison and the Government must do better to ensure older Australians get the quality aged care services they deserve, when they need it – older Australians and their loved ones cannot afford to wait any longer.

MONDAY, 27 JANUARY 2020

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