

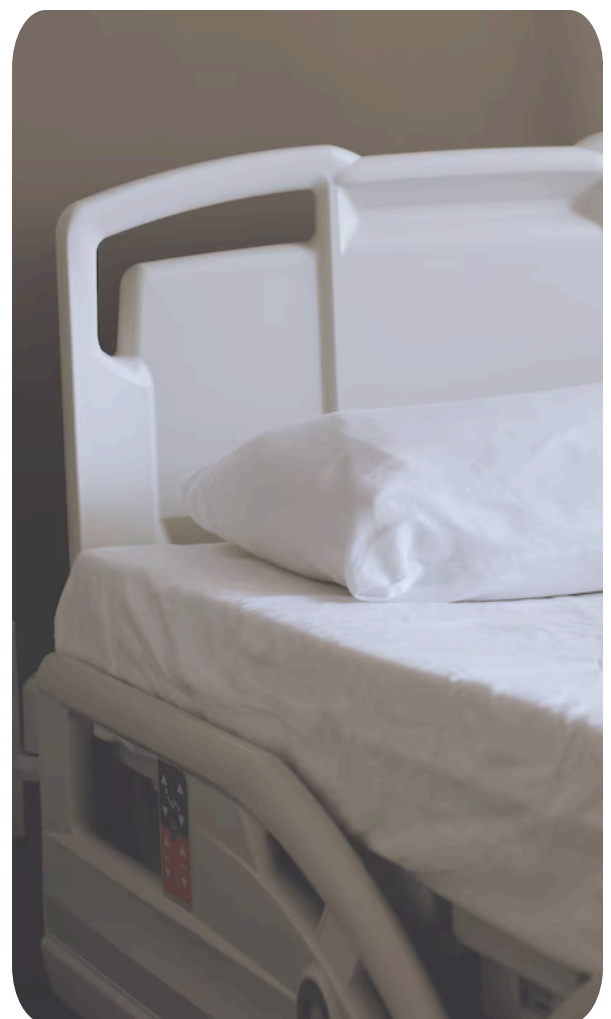
Election Manifesto 2025

Care where it counts: Ending the displacement and blame of older Australians.

Australia is facing an aged care crisis. One that is hurting our hospitals, our regions, and our communities.

Whether it's older Australians being wrongly blamed for bed shortages in hospitals, or those in regional WA being forced to leave their homes to access basic care, it is clear our system is broken. With a rapidly ageing population, things will only get worse. We must act now.

We need urgent, coordinated action from the federal government to invest in aged care infrastructure, services, and its workforce – both in our hospitals and in the heart of our regions. Older Australians deserve to live with choice, control and dignity.



1

Not their fault, not their fight: End the crisis in care for older Australians

Our hospitals are under immense pressure.

Bed shortages are growing, emergency departments are overwhelmed, and too often, older Australians are wrongly labelled as 'Bed Blockers'. This term is negative, unwarranted and shifts the blame to vilify older people.

Let's be clear: bed blocking is not the fault of older people. It is the direct result of systemic failures – a lack of investment in aged care, poor hospital discharge planning, and a chronic shortage of appropriate aged care homes.

Advocare calls on all federal politicians to:

- Commit to urgent, sustained investment in aged care homes and communities that are safe, adequately staffed, and fit for purpose.
- Create a national strategy for improving discharge pathways and out of hospital care models ensuring timely access and transitions to appropriate care.
- Publicly reject the narrative that blames older people for system failures.
- Recognise and uphold the rights of older people to receive care that meets their needs – wherever they are.

This is not just a policy problem. It's a moral one. Older Australians deserve to live with respect, dignity and choice. We must act now to build a health and aged care system that benefits everyone.

2

Ageing where we belong: Invest in regional care now

Right now, older people in regional Western Australia are being forced to leave the communities they've built their lives in.

They have moved away from loved ones, culture, and country, just to access the care they need.

It's not about choice, it's about the complete lack of aged care options in regional and remote areas. Older people are being uprooted because governments have failed to invest in the services and infrastructure that would allow them to age with dignity, in their communities.

This must change.

Advocare calls on all federal politicians to:

- Commit to enabling older people to live and age in their own communities by ensuring regional access to quality care.
- Invest in infrastructure and upgrading of aged care homes and communities across regional and remote WA.
- Grow the regional care workforce by supporting training, housing, and incentives to attract and retain skilled aged care workers in the regions.
- Support community-led solutions by partnering with local organisations and First Nations communities to deliver culturally safe, community-based, and sustainable care.

This is about fairness, equity, and basic human dignity.

No one should be forced to leave their home or community to receive care. Every Australian deserves to age in place with support, with respect, and with their community.

**Fix the system.
End the blame.
Invest in aged care now.**

Advocare

Empowering older people in WA

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