

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Quality care for older people a priority in the Illawarra/Shoalhaven

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The Illawarra Forum today responded to concerns raised in last night's Four Corners report on Aveo retirement homes.

"Aged care and retirement living in the Illawarra is largely provided by not-for-profit providers" said Illawarra Forum CEO, Nicky Sloan " There are some wonderful local organisations in this region who genuinely seek to provide quality services which support individual choice and rewarding, inspiring lives."

It is important to recognise that the experiences of the people in the report, while clearly distressing, were within the context of a single, profit-making ASX listed commercial provider.

"We encourage older people to do their research in order to make an informed choice when they move into retirement living or aged care" Ms Sloan said "Our local not-for-profit providers exist only to service their clients. They do not have the same imperative to derive a profit to satisfy shareholders. Any profit they make is ploughed straight back into providing more opportunities for their clients."

The Illawarra Forum is strongly supportive of our local not-for-profit organisations who provide services that are affordable, reliable, and innovative.

Our local not-for-profit aged care members invest back into their organisations in order to have highly qualified staff; modern, innovative facilities, and to offer a range of services.

"If the Four Corners report has raised concerns" said Ms Sloan "we encourage people currently living in retirement villages or care facilities, and those who are considering this as their next move, to discuss their concerns with their provider".

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### About the Illawarra Forum

The Illawarra Forum is the peak body working for community services and organisations in the Illawarra and the Shoalhaven. It supports community organisations, promotes expertise and innovation in community development, fosters industry development and provides advocacy for social justice. The Illawarra Forum is an independent organisation governed by a committee of management elected annually by the membership.

The Forum represents the non-government community services industry in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven, which consists of approximately 300 organisations. The Illawarra Forum works closely with numerous organisations which provide support to vulnerable people across the region.