



BUSINESS COUNCIL
OF CO-OPERATIVES AND MUTUALS

PRESS RELEASE

Mutual third way succeeds in Home Care bid

Sydney, 28 August: The Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals (BCCM) welcomes today's news of the sale of the NSW governments' Home Care service to mutual provider, Australian Unity, and the reinvestment of \$100 million of sale proceeds in the national disability insurance scheme and related services.

Commenting on the sale, chief executive of the BCCM, Melina Morrison recognised the important role of mutual providers in delivering such services to the Australian people.

"The sale of the NSW governments Home Care service to Australian Unity, a BCCM member, highlights the government's trust in mutuals to provide health and social care services for the elderly and disabled citizens of Australia", said Ms Morrison.

"Australian Unity is a trusted national brand, a 175 year old institution which has remained true to its mutual origins as a consumer focused, member based business. The sheer size of Home Care service with its 70 per cent market share and 50,000 clients indicates the NSW government believes the transfer of services to the capable hands of a mutual provider is in the best interests of NSW and service users."

"It is also very important that Australian Unity has stated it will retain the unique identity of the Aboriginal Home Care unit which provides services within the broader home care umbrella, recognising the importance of community connectedness, high quality and consistent service provision to all users."

Public Service Mutuals are designed and run for the public benefit not private profit while designed by consumers and structured around their needs.

The BCCM White Paper on Public Service Mutuals (PSMs) released in 2014 highlighted the need for a third way to deliver public services which provide accountability and transparency together with the economic efficiencies to meet the demands of an ageing population. This sale sees government deliver on a key recommendation in the White Paper that existing mutuals can provide a great service model.

The McClure Report on the welfare system and the Harper Review into competition policy supported the recommendations of the BCCM White Paper that mutuals should play a greater role in the delivery of public services.



BUSINESS COUNCIL
OF CO-OPERATIVES AND MUTUALS

Notes for editors

1. For further information, please contact:

- Melina Morrison, BCCM CEO (04 109 026 56 or melina.morrison@bccm.coop)

- Padraic Varley, Communications and Media Officer (04 565 586 80 or padraic.varley@bccm.coop)

2. You can also receive the BCCM's news and press releases by following us on Twitter [@BCCM_AU](https://twitter.com/BCCM_AU) or signing up to our newsletters at www.bccm.coop

3. The Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals (BCCM) is the national peak body representing the co-operative and mutual models of enterprise in Australia. Formed in 2013, the BCCM is led by the chief executives of Australia's leading co-operative and mutual businesses and is the only organisation uniting the entire, diverse range of member owned business.