

IRT WELCOMES INTERGENERATIONAL FOCUS ON AGEING SOCIETY

IRT welcomes the Federal Government's Intergenerational Report released today with its much-needed focus on the challenges of a growing aged population.

Chief Executive Nieves Murray said as Australia's largest community based not-for-profit aged care and retirement living provider, IRT is already pre-empting the growth and needs of the aged sector.

Ms Murray said the face of seniors lifestyle living is set to change dramatically as the number of Australians aged 65 and over doubles during the next 40 years.

"IRT is making a substantial investment in our capacity to provide seniors living now and for the evolving needs of our society, to ensure that seniors achieve their optimum quality of life," Ms Murray said.

"This report encourages the value of an ongoing and active participation of seniors in our workforce and as mentors for younger generations.

"At IRT, we support our residents who wish to continue working and ease themselves into a leisure lifestyle and volunteer programs that enable intergenerational mentor opportunities."

Ms Murray said the focus by the Government on our ageing society was to be commended.

"Australia's ageing population is a critical issue affecting our society. We need to take responsibility for the quality of life we want seniors to experience and to reassure the future generations that we are all valued members of our communities," she said.

Ends

Note to Editor/s: We request you refer to IRT as “IRT” not “Illawarra Retirement Trust” – thank you.

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About IRT:

IRT is Australia’s largest not for profit community based aged care and retirement living provider.* It has been providing care, services and accommodation to older Australians for nearly 40 years. IRT manages facilities in 29 locations across Southern NSW, Sydney and the ACT. It serves the needs of over 2800 residents in its facilities and helps maintain the wellbeing of about 1700 elderly clients through its in-home care services.

*BRW Nov 2008