

# Aged care funds 'a win' for Oakden families

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THE families of former Oakden nursing home residents have welcomed Budget funding for more aged care places as "a win" but warned demand will continue to grow.

Alma Krecu, whose father Ermanno Serpo was assaulted at Oakden, urged authorities to put the extra money to work swiftly to clear waiting lists for aged care places.

Ms Krecu said her family would also have benefited from support pledged in Tuesday's Budget to enable more elderly Australians to receive in-home care.

"We were paying for a pri-



**PLEASED:** Alma Krecu with her mother Rina Serpo.

vate nurse to come to the house," she said. "We would have loved to have kept him home for longer."

The 2018-19 Federal Budget commits more than \$1.6 billion to enable 14,000 more elderly Australians to receive high-

level aged-care in their own homes, 13,500 to enter live-in facilities and 775 to receive short-term, restorative care.

While the number of places in SA has not been finalised, state Health and Wellbeing Minister Stephen Wade said any extra spaces would ease demand on public hospitals.

"There are far too many South Australians languishing in our hospitals waiting for an appropriate aged care placement," he told State Parliament yesterday.

The Budget also allocates about \$100 million for mental health services in aged care homes and for older people with dementia still living at home. Ms Krecu said better

training was needed for staff at aged care homes where patients exhibited extreme behaviours.

Aged care not-for-profit provider ACH Group CEO Ray Creen estimated there could be about 1400 extra in-home aged care packages allocated to SA.

"Older people largely tell us that they want to stay living in their own homes however, with current funding not meeting demand, they are missing out on services essential for them to do so comfortably and safely," Mr Creen said.

Other Budget aged care initiatives include \$32.8 million to improve palliative care in aged care homes.