

Submission

This submission concerns the very grave concerns held by this Organisation and other Home and Community Care Program service providers, in relation to the decision to split this program. We are currently informed that the Australian Government's 66% of funds is to be restricted to the delivery of services to the aged and administered by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, and the State Government's contribution of 34% is to be utilised for service provision to younger people under the age of 65yrs, and administered by the State Government Disability Services Queensland (in our case).

We have further been informed that there is no guarantee beyond 30 June 2011 that either department will choose to contract with existing service providers to deliver the services.

The Australian Government under a number of administrations has communicated for 10 years regarding a plan to streamline and simplify Community Care for the frail aged and people with a disability, (The Way Forward etc.). For this to result, after 10 years, in the only significant change being the further fragmentation of a very successful program, with further imposition of administrative burdens on service providers (should they be lucky enough to be separately contracted by both state and federal governments) is nothing short of astonishing.

Because I am an extremely busy service manager, I have not the time to write a full submission to the Commission so I am proposing to take the shortcut of attaching the original concerns document which was sent by our organisation to State and Federal elected representatives when this proposal was first put to COAG, and more recently the Schedule 2© which we received with the new HACC service Agreement for our organisation, and our letter explaining our concerns which we sent to the department with the signed Service Agreement.

I am hopeful that the Commission staff will be able to put this together into a clear statement of concern from our organisation. I have also done a very short video presentation to the commission at the recent National Community Care conference at the Gold Coast, though this presentation emphasized different issues.

I am contactable by telephone or email, should you wish to clarify any matter.

Kind regards,

Thea Caffin.