

We welcome the opportunity to provide a submission to the Productivity Commission's Inquiry into Caring for Older Australians.

As Health professionals currently working in the health system we have a vested interest in ensuring the care that's provided to older Australians within this system is of the highest quality.

The recent federal budget commitment for aged care goes some way in addressing a number of critical issues affecting the industry – particularly the funding for education of existing staff and for the examination of a national regulation system for aged care workers.

However, further reform of the aged care industry is still very much needed, and well overdue, to ensure our aged care system can meet the challenges facing it in coming decades.

It has been agreed that care staff continuously address behaviours of concern in residential aged care and address the challenges to provide time effective and empathetic care to residents with dementia. It is acknowledged, that to improve quality of life, tranquillity of mind and staff engagement Government needed to consider increased funding for dementia care residents within the commonwealth system to facilitate this care.

On behalf of the dementia sufferers now and in the future I would like to accept the invitation from the Federal Government to the Productivity Commission to develop options for restructuring Australia's aged care system to ensure it can meet the challenges in the coming decade. I would like to submit the following:

"That dementia be a monthly claim in the Commonwealth funding in a similar manner as O2 therapy and internal feeding. Currently, there is no incentive in ACFI (Aged Care Funding Instrument) or Commonwealth funding for RACFS (Residential Aged Care Facilities) to accept dementia residents.

It should be considered that not for profit RACF's with a much more fiscal emphasis may be penalising these people. In addition, data indicates that behaviours of concern that contribute to the greatest work related incidents in RACF's are primarily dementia residents during episodes of personal care.

In support of this submission, deliberation should be given to the time factor involved in providing care for residents with dementia taking into consideration our goal for provision of empathetic, supportive and person centred care and the funding required to adequately staff and ensure ongoing support for staff to provide this care effectively."

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