

GyMEA Home and Community Care (HACC) Projects



- GyMEA Neighbour Aid
- Sutherland Shire Multicultural Daycare Project
- Sutherland Shire Aged Daycare Project

Auspiced by GyMEA Community Aid and Information Service Inc.

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Caring for Older Australians
Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
Canberra City ACT 2601

BRIEF REPORT FROM GYMEA NEIGHBOUR AID.

Dear Commissioner

I wish to comment briefly on the Productivity Commission Issues paper of May 2010.

As a Coordinator of a HACC Service in GyMEA, NSW, the future of Aged Services within the Community Care Sector is the overriding issue reflected in our Shirewide Network Strategic Planning Agenda.

Over the next few decades Australians are expected to become more diverse in terms of their care needs, preferences, income and wealth. A relative decline in family support and informal carers is also expected. (PG. 1) As a Social Support Service that also provides Centre Based Frail Aged Daycare, I feel that many of these needs can be met at a Local Community level. Networking and local knowledge and promotion support the Community development needed to fulfil such a role.

Is there sufficient emphasis within the current system on maintaining a person's independence? Should there be greater emphasis on consumer-directed care in the delivery of services, and would this enable more Australians to exercise their preference to live independently in their own homes for longer with appropriate care and support? (pg 13)

Neighbour Aid/Social Support services have long enjoyed the reputation as a Service type that delivered personalised, client focused support, driven by the Client's level of need and desire for Social inclusiveness. It is a cost effective Service that draws much of its strength from a pool of volunteer labour. As we further adopt the Governments IMPACT model of client re-enablement we

move even closer to providing ongoing cost effective, consumer directed care.

Who should pay for Aged Care Services? (pg 20) I believe that it should remain a mixed model with a dominant tax payer funded component. However, National fees guidelines should be introduced for all levels of Aged care Service provision, with more stringent means testing. 'User pays' should gain a broader emphasis, even to the point of introducing a nominal fee for everybody who accesses our often abused, over worked ambulance Service. Local Councils should be given greater power to place encumbrances on the estates of the many asset rich, cash poor pensioners of today. This would also, through modern, innovative home modification, enable people to remain at home longer.

What are the key issues concerning the current formal aged care workforce, including remuneration and retention? (pg 26) It is obvious that providing salaries and incentives commensurate with what is offered in the private sector of industry is absolutely necessary in ensuring continuity and growth of a highly trained workforce to meet the challenges of the next decade.

Janet Brown
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HACC Services Coordinator

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