

17 November 2010

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

The Commissioner

1. My wife and I have been residents in an Independent Living unit at Banksia Village at Broulee for six years. We are 78 and 79 years of age respectively and are approaching the stage of requiring support in our home, mainly because of my wife's disability and my advancing age.
2. My wife and I are currently being assessed for provision of home care assistance and this assistance will come from organisations outside the Village. I would like to see Banksia being able to provide this kind of service to us and to nearby members of the outside community using Banksia staff.
3. Staff is more readily available if the service is provided from within the retirement village. This is better for the timing of the service and means that less money is wasted on transporting staff to and from the retirement village.
4. I submit my views for consideration of apportioning more of the available funding to enable Banksia to provide better and more community services. Banksia is a small village, it is a 'Not for Profit' company. It is slowly expanding, currently having 80 independent living units and 50 hostel rooms. It has developed an excellent community profile in the Eurobodalla Shire. I feel we are being disadvantaged in a number of areas because we are not one of the bigger players in the Retirement Village Industry.
5. In conclusion, I am asking for a review of the way in which funding is allocated to smaller villages, such as Banksia.

David Bourke