

A Submission from the Banksia Villages Residents' Committee – Broulee NSW

Introduction.

Banksia Villages Limited is a "not for profit" aged care establishment situated at Broulee on the south coast of N.S.W.

The Village consists of Banksia Lodge containing 50 single rooms catering for low and medium care residents. The self care section of Banksia contains 80 Villas of two and three bedrooms all of which are of very high standard. It is proposed to add a further 52 villas in the near future.

Without exception, our self care residents are wishing to remain in their own villas as age catches up with them. To this end we are requesting our Board of Directors employ carers and helpers who would be available to assist us in doing so rather than the need to move into high care accomodation; until it becomes absolutely necessary. I must stress the importance of leaving elderly people in familiar surroundings with friends as long as possible. A move at a late stage of life can be fatal.

After discussion with our Management, I find that over the past five or more years they have submitted tenders to the Department of Health and Ageing for financial assistance in order that we may establish our own "In House " home care facility. Unfortunately all of our submissions to date have been unsuccessful due mostly to the fact that we do not have the vast recourses of larger organisations such as Illawarra Retirement Trust and Anglicare to submit complicated tenders. The present system greatly disadvantages smaller operators similar to ourselves.

OUR SUBMISSION.

The current tendering process for Comunity Aged Care Packages should be modified to make it more equitable for such operators such as Banksia to obtain financial assistance. It must take into consideration such things as :-

A. As a not for profit organisation each \$1 of funding received is put toward resident care. There are no high management fees , director's salaries or shareholder dividends to be paid outfirst.

B. As a smaller organisation, our management are in closer contact with the residents and as such are more able to know first hand the individual requirements of each on a personal basis. This is far preferable to having carers from an outside organisation visiting where we just become another number in their system and they do not understand our feelings. This must surely be beneficial to both the resident and carer alike.

C. As a smaller operator, the Federal Government must surely receive better value for the taxpayer \$1 as our "in house" facility would not incur expenses such as car travelling and other high overhead costs.

D The management of Banksia Villages Limited has always supported the local community in Broulee. If such a facility could be established in this locality, it could eventually be extended to include local Broulee residents.

E. By comparison with Illawarra Retirement Trust and Anglicare, we may be a small establishment but we are just as deserving [if not more so] of this funding.

CONCLUSION.

On behalf of the residents of Banksia, I request that the current system used by the Department of Health and Ageing to allocate funding for providers be modified to create a level playing field whereby we have an equal chance of obtaining funding as do the larger organisations.

Chairman
Banksia Residents Committee