



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

SECRETARY

Mr Mike Woods
Deputy Chair and Presiding Commissioner
Inquiry into Caring for Older Australians
Productivity Commission
PO Box 1428
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Mr Woods *Mike*

Submission to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Caring for Older Australians

The Department of Health and Ageing welcomes the Australian Government's decision to ask the Productivity Commission to undertake an inquiry into Australia's aged care system and thanks the Commission for the opportunity to make this submission.

The Commission's examination of the need for reform of Australia's aged care system, the scope for reform and the benefits that could flow from reform for older people, their carers and the taxpayer is timely, given the increasing importance of the aged care sector to the delivery of health care, to the economy and to the Commonwealth budget.

The Department's submission seeks to assist the Commission in its inquiry by providing significant, and in some cases previously unpublished, detail on the structure, finances and capacity of the aged care sector. It also discusses some of the policy considerations that will need to inform the evaluation of any proposals for reform.

Yours sincerely

Jane Halton
Secretary

December 2010