



20 December 2010

Caring for Older Australians  
Productivity Commission  
GPO Box 1428  
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

## Aged Care Placement Services

*A solution to assist families and hospital staff to source aged care in a timely and efficient way and free up hospital beds for acutely ill patients.*

This submission proposes that if families are referred to an aged care placement service when they first receive the Aged Care Client Record that both families and hospitals benefit significantly. Aged care placement services have a specialised body of knowledge and specific information about vacancies and types of commonwealth funded low and high level care. Using an aged care placement agency means that suitable aged care can be found often in less than 1/3 of the time it takes families to source aged care.

'I don't know where to start'. This is a refrain often heard when a person is asked to look for a nursing home or hostel (high or low care) for their loved one. Frequently families look for aged care under pressure if their loved one is in hospital. Much of the pressure is from hospital staff and social workers, who ask that the family find a list of suitable aged care facilities within 2 – 3 weeks. This arduous task for families may coexist with the heartbreak of very ill or frail parents, work and family commitments, and trying to wade through the financial complexities of our aged care system. Under such stress families may decide on a less suitable or more costly facility or worse, do nothing. Many people complain that they need to apply for unpaid leave from work to source aged care. For this reason aged care placement fees become economical when compared to the potential for lost wages whilst looking for aged care. Benefits are very real for the elderly who can settle into a suitable facility quicker, rather than languish in hospital or transitional care programmes. Hospitals benefit financially if the elderly are placed quicker and beds become vacant for the acutely ill.

Sincerely,

Denise Tomaras  
Operations Manager.  
*Encl copies of client testimonials x 3*

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**TENDER LIVING CARE AUSTRALIA PTY LTD**

ABN 76 133 072 107

700 High Street, Kew East Victoria, Australia 3102

Ph: 1300 889 356 Fax: (03) 9859 3577