

The Officers in Charge,
Productivity Commission,
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Submission to the Productivity Commission, re Caring for Older Australians

- (a) If building a house again I would design it so that a part of it could be locked off as a private flat for a carer/friend/relative, as I think it is important for older people to live in their own house as long as possible:
- (b) ageing people should aim, not at a mansion inaccessible to public transport, shops, services, but at a smaller easy care home close to transport, shops, services. They would be able to stay independent longer and probab; less of a drain on public finances.
- (c) For those who need nursing care, finding a home with adequate numbers of nursing staff can be a problem. In my experience a lot of them are understaffed, especially some privately owned institutions which seem to cut down on staff (especially R.Ns) to increase their profits. Church and state run institutions seem to be better, but even some of these can have a small trained staff to patient ratio.

Adequate numbers of well trained, caring, staff is, in my opinion, the main feature of a "good" nursing home.

Yours faithfully,

(D.T. BAKER)