



strokefoundation

1 April 2011

Inquiry into Caring for Older Australians
Productivity Commission
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Canberra City ACT 2601

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Patron in Chief:
Her Excellency
Ms Quentin Bryce AC
Governor-General of the
Commonwealth of Australia

Patrons:
David Brownbill AM
Sir Gustav Nossal AC
Lady Southey AM

Dear Commissioners Woods, Fitzgerald and Macri,

RE: INQUIRY INTO CARING FOR OLDER AUSTRALIANS

The National Stroke Foundation welcomes the opportunity to make this submission to the Inquiry into 'Caring for Older Australians' on behalf of stroke survivors and their carers.

We commend the Productivity Commission on its draft recommendations to bring about real structural reform to the aged care system so as to meet future demand and reduce the complexity of the current aged care system for consumers and their families and service providers. There is a substantial need to achieve better integration and linkages between services and agencies within the aged care sector.

Stroke survivors and carers' experience of navigating the aged care service system mirrors that of the broader community. They describe it as confusing and fragmented, requiring contact with multiple agencies, and an understanding of a system with which they have had little or no previous contact. To this end, we support the establishment of an aged care gateway and have made recommendations as to how this aged care gateway could operate and best meet the needs of stroke survivors and carers. Our submission focuses primarily on Chapter 8 of the draft report.

The National Stroke Foundation looks forward to providing more background on this submission in Canberra on 6 April and would be pleased to assist the Inquiry further.

Yours sincerely

Dr Erin Lalor

Chief Executive Officer
National Stroke Foundation