

*Aged Care  
Productivity Commission*

Attention Jill Irvine

I only just heard of this enquiry, by accident. Wonder is that part of the problem i.e. average Aussies don't get to give input because they are unaware they can.

My main point is that the aim to keep older people in their homes as long as possible is way too narrow when the more important thing is to stay in ones community. At present to stay in the community one HAS to stay in ones own home even if doing so endangers ones health.

The culture of a rural community is vastly different to that of the city especially as the family business IS the home as well. Very few will sacrifice that, and leave kids destitute by choice to go into a distant "zoo" where they don't really want to be.

Of the approx 3 thousand persons who came to sign the petition a few years ago by far the majority saw the major problem of aged care to be removal of older people from the community. As of social and intellectual detriment to the community; and detrimental to the social, emotional, physical and intellectual health of the removed person as well as their partner. Even the threat of such causes extreme anxiety to many.

~~I would love to be able to make a personal presentation~~ as a person who comes from a poor background, managed to become a professional, has worked in the area of aged care in a range of scenarios including Indigenous camps. And has talked to enough people to be able to confidently state that the current system in many instances does more harm than good, is too little too late in the wrong place and for the wrong reason. Costs far more in every way than a community based equivalent where people were allowed to take some of the workload themselves would. Far too much is wasted in top heavy administration by people who have no real insight into the harm caused. And have never met the people they are making decisions for.

Often the elderly are seen as a problem to be solved, rather than a human being with fears hopes and aspirations to be cared for!

The following is from community consultations, presentations etc so please excuse where a point is repeated.

We regard aged care as a lifelong process but with the real action starting in the mid 50s or at retirement. That people feel they HAVE to go into retirement villages as there is no real alternative highlights the extent of ageism.

Looking forward to hearing further from you

Clara Jones

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PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE.