

Submission to Productivity Commission

Inquiry into Caring for Older Australians

Iain Johnstone, ACT, 3 May 2011.

I write as a layperson to add a comment on workforce issues, Chapter 11, and consumer choice Chapter 8.2. I am moved to write by learning of a mode of care delivery that exists in some other countries and might be adapted to the Australian context (apparently it does not exist here, at least in ACT). It consists of partially subsidised live-in care provided for two-week periods by either qualified carers or registered nurses. Continuity of care can be achieved by rotation every two weeks.

The two examples that I have heard of personally are

a) United Kingdom, e.g. <http://www.consultuscare.com/live-in-nursing/>

b) Austria, with some descriptions (in German) at

<http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/24-Stunden-Betreuung> (Oesterreich)

[http://www.bundessozialamt.gv.at/basb/Pflege/24 Stunden Betreuung](http://www.bundessozialamt.gv.at/basb/Pflege/24%20Stunden%20Betreuung)

In both cases the cost is (or can be) shared between the clients receiving care and the local government health service. That is, in both cases, the system is not entirely private and works with government participation.

This is a desirable option for some elderly people that can delay or avoid entirely their movement into permanent nursing care.

I regret the lateness of this submission.