

11/26

Mr Mike Woods  
Deputy Chairman  
Productivity Commission  
GPO Box 1428  
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601



AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL  
ASSOCIATION

ABN 37 008 426 793

T | 61 2 6270 5400

F | 61 2 6270 5499

E | [info@ama.com.au](mailto:info@ama.com.au)

W | [www.ama.com.au](http://www.ama.com.au)

42 Macquarie St Barton ACT 2600

PO Box 6090 Kingston ACT 2604

Dear Mr Woods

### **Inquiry into ‘Caring for Older Australians’**

You are familiar with the AMA’s proposals to guarantee access to medical care by a doctor on an ongoing basis for residents of aged care facilities. We have been pursuing this, not only as part of the Commission’s inquiry into Caring for Older Australians, but with the Department of Health and Ageing.

I am writing to advise that, in recent correspondence, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Ageing has noted this issue was raised in the Commission’s inquiry. The Secretary indicates that the Government will take into account the Commission’s recommendations in considering future policy options in this area.

Our submissions have indicated ways that the AMA believes that functional barriers can be removed, barriers which discourage doctors, especially younger doctors, from adopting RACF practice as a viable component of their career paths. As a major plank of the several strategies to encourage doctors to attend RACFs, we have sought to have a specific accreditation standard requiring RACF operators to facilitate medical practice within the RACF environment.

Other strategies which we have proposed include development of the teaching nursing home concept, among other positive incentives to attract doctors.

Accordingly, I ask that the Commission’s final report give due consideration to the issue of access to medical care for residents in aged care facilities.

Yours sincerely

Dr Wayne Herdy  
Chair  
Committee for Healthy Ageing

31 May 2011

D11/2963