

To Mark Butler, Dan Tehan and the Productivity Commission Inquiry.

What do the Geriatric sector require?

There should be a central data base that has every need covered. This should cover the availability of all services within the system and how to access them

Why?---If you require a service it should be available without researching all departments to try and get a service you need.

One phone call should be made to set up this service within a realistic time frame.

The assessment team should have the means to set up services to meet the needs of the clients and their carers. This should not be a predetermined level set out as at present, but a realistic needs base with achievable goals.

A pensioners living alone should be supplied with a safety emergency call system free of costs and ongoing charges.

The accessibility/remoteness index of Australia score does not work, unless you are in the outback .Put in a system that works in all rural areas.

There is too much privatization dipping into the geriatric dollar. Stop selling off our services and keep them under the Government umbrella. The waste of valuable resources to these agents, who have to make a profit, is unacceptable. They have to be set up, evaluated and have a continuous quality assessment setup by the Government.

Put more funds into the local District Nursing Services, these people are well trained and are on the spot within the home to pick up problems earlier and therefore decrease the severity of a situation.

The geriatric management system and the Direct to Care systems do not work, I have proven this in my own situation.

Suggestions:

Set up a larger and more realistic localized active assessment team.

Set up a central assessable data base for services.

Embrace a larger more active District Nurse system to all areas.

Review all present tools used to evaluate and begin to more personalize the whole assessment procedure these systems do not work because no one system fits all.

I hope the ideas I have made might decrease this top heavy, unworkable system that now exists.

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