

I'm writing in response to the government's aged care report and would like to draw attention to the largely unmet needs of a group of people with a condition called Multiple Chemical Sensitivity.

My particular concern is that the accommodation requirements of older people with this condition and not being met now and that this problem will only worsen as the population ages.

Individuals with MCS throughout their lives are faced with difficulties when trying to find suitable accommodation. Because of their sensitivity to multiple triggers in their environment, they find that most places are not only unsuitable, but actually worsen their condition.

When establishing an aged care facility for those with MCS, consideration would have to be given to location, materials used to construct the building, interior fittings, furniture, soft furnishings etc.

Many people with MCS require filtered or distilled water for drinking, and whole house filters for washing needs. Some have Electromagnetic Radiation Sensitivity, so electrical connections would have to cater for their needs.

There would be many other considerations for those with MCS, such as special dietary requirements, as many also have food intolerances, and transport needs.

Those in the MCS community are very aware that the establishment of facilities to accommodate all these needs would be costly and difficult to maintain, but request that these needs at the very least be taken into consideration. Groups such as AESSRA as well as individuals with MCS would be happy to further discuss solutions to these problems.

There are currently people with MCS living in unsuitable aged care facilities and their health is suffering. This problem will worsen with time unless it is addressed now.

Your consideration of this problem before it becomes a major issue would be greatly appreciated by the MCS community.

Thank you.

Name Withheld (10)