

## **Submission on the Productivity Commissioner's Draft Report into the Provision of Residential Aged Care over the Next Two Decades.**

My husband (aged 77) and I (aged 72) are full pensioners. We have worked very hard all of our lives and lived fairly frugally. We have paid taxes and have used time and money to renovate our own home.

Yes, we want to live in our own home for as long as we can and we do not want to have to sell it to go into an aged care facility.

Centrelink accepts that the family home is ours and is sacrosanct from taxing and means testing.

We want the Government to work out other ways of helping to ensure aged people now and in the future do not have to end up in the predicament in which we may probably find ourselves.

**The government should collect more money to be put aside totally for aged care.**

- Enforce employees to pay higher super to be put aside for aged care
- Increase the GST on a range of products especially non essential glamour goods and put this money towards aged care. The entire community would then pay for aged care.
- Channel some of the gambling tax, even increase gambling taxes and put this towards the cost of aged care.

We sense that the elderly are happier if they can live in their own homes, in their own familiar surroundings using available support systems as long as possible. They can age with dignity. This makes for a happier community – they can remain in it and can continue to contribute towards it.

**We want the Government help the aged remain in their homes longer.**

- Train more people in aged care services to be used to support the elderly in their own homes.
- Provide better wages and working conditions for these aged care workers.
- Make sure these aged care workers are well resourced to provide quality care
- Increase the home cares rate of pay. The husband, wife, relative or friend give wonderful service and save the Government money.
- Increase the respite services for carers and the cared for. Caring for an elderly person at home can be very demanding - home carers are usually overworked and sometimes their own health is in jeopardy costing the Government even more money.
- We would like the elderly who wish to sell their own homes to be able to rent and still be able to obtain these quality services.

Dorothy Smith  
Ray Smith