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**Health Services Union**

**Our Ref.:** DH: HO.059.11

**Attention:** Ms Jill Irvine

Inquiry into Caring for Older  
Australians  
Productivity Commission  
GPO Box 1428  
Canberra City ACT 2601

21 March, 2011

Dear Ms Irvine

**Re: HSU East Submission on Draft Report**

I refer to the Submission prepared by the Health Services Union (HSU) East Branch and write to indicate the WA Branch support for the Submission and in particular the recommendations contained at pages 21 to 23. The following additional observations are provided.

The HSU WA Branch membership coverage includes all Professional, Administrative, Clerical, Technical and Supervisory staff employed in Hospitals & Health Services, Aged Care, Disability and Community Services in both the public and private sectors. Whilst we do not cover Doctors and Nurses we cover all other health professional callings such as Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Speech Pathologists, Dieticians, Podiatrists and Social Workers. These occupations along with the various therapy assistant roles form an important component of the aged care workforce. In supporting the call for a detailed workforce analysis of the current workforce we believe particular attention needs to be given to ensuring that allied health assistant roles as distinct from personal carers are identified.

Any review of the career paths and structures for the aged care workforce should be based on the relevant qualifications frameworks identified within the Health Training Package and the Community Services Training Package developed by the Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council. It is expected that as new roles are developed in consultation with all industry parties these will be reflected in those packages.

We believe that more attention needs to be focussed on the interface between the acute hospital settings (how older patients are treated and managed) and the aged care sector. Initiatives such as Hospital in the Home and Rehabilitation in the Home need to be expanded to include the full range of aged care settings.

We strongly support the HSU East recommendation that any increased aged care funding to improve wages and conditions for the workforce must be directly linked to the delivery by providers of such improvements through enterprise agreements, training programmes and the like.

Yours Faithfully

Dan Hill  
Secretary