

21 March 2011



Ms Jill Irvine
Caring for Older Australians
Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
Canberra City ACT 2601
agedcare@pc.gov.au

Dear Ms Irvine

The City Councils of Boroondara, Knox, Manningham, Maroondah, Monash, Whitehorse and Yarra Ranges in Melbourne's Eastern Metropolitan Region welcome the opportunity to respond to the proposals and recommendations outlined in the Productivity Commission's draft report '*Caring for Older Australians*'.

This response also endorses the feedback to be provided to the Commission by the Municipal Association of Victoria.

Melbourne's Eastern Metropolitan Council's commend the Commission for its pursuit of a comprehensive proposal to redesign the national aged care system. We support the principles upon which the report is based, with the draft report containing some sound proposals which will facilitate the reform of the aged care system in Australia.

However, we seek to highlight through our submission some aspects which may require further consideration and review. Local government is a major provider of community based aged care services, and has legislated responsibility for municipal wide planning for services for older people including those with a disability. As such we believe that there should be a clear and robust process for the provision of local government input into the detailed planning for and oversight of the implementation of the final recommendations on the future policy and program framework for aged care services in Australia. To date, there has been little or no input from local governments who currently play a critical role in the provision of aged care in the State of Victoria, especially for many of the complex and highly vulnerable residents who seek to continue to live independently in their own homes as they age.

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Our response, as attached, poses a number of critical questions for the Productivity Commission to consider. We are willing to contribute and provide any information that may assist the Commission in its deliberations and look forward to your response.

[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Dr Catherine Dale
Chief Executive Officer
on behalf of the local governments in Melbourne's Eastern Metropolitan Region

CC: Graeme Emonson, CEO, City of Knox
David Conran, CEO, City of Monash
Lydia Wilson, CEO, City of Manningham
Frank Dixon, CEO, City of Maroondah
Noelene Duff, CEO, City of Whitehorse
Glenn Patterson, CEO, Shire of Yarra Ranges