



WARRINA STREET
INNISFAIL Q 4860

PRESIDENT: **MRS J. SORENSEN**

HOSTEL
NURSING HOME

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SECRETARY: **MRS K. O'BRIEN**

TREASURER: **MRS H. KEEVERS**

Ref:ww/j/b/procom

27th August 1998

Productivity Commission
P. O. Box 80
Belconnen ACT 2616

Dear Sir,

INQUIRY INTO NURSING HOME SUBSIDIES

Warrina Innisfail is a community based and owned, not-for-profit, charitable organisation with a sixty two {62} bed Hostel and a forty {40} bed nursing home situated in a rural town with a population of nine thousand {9000} within a local shire of nineteen thousand {19000}.

It is increasingly difficult to continue the care required to meet all Government Standards and still provide a reserve for future upgrade/development. Funding for the states in our opinion should be such that the quality of care for all residents in all aged care facilities is equal and that the same opportunity exists for such facilities to maintain morale and viability.

Warrina Innisfail is very aware that it is imperative to pursue continual improvement, seek ways to become more efficient, to maximise income and to minimise costs. There is no problem accepting these requirements.

However one wonders how far such constraints can continue without eventually compromising resident care, certification, accreditation, staff burn out and morale. There is a limit and that limit is linked with funding and viability. It seems to be "cut hours," "restrict a service," "defer till next budget." To further compound frustration there is an extreme shortage of Registered Nurses for nursing home employment.

An exercise was undertaken recently by comparing our current forty {40} bed nursing home residents receiving Queensland funding with that of other State funding. The table is attached. Even taking the average of these figures our nursing home would receive an additional \$150,500.00 per annum.

I do not wish to continue to reiterate the funding anomalies. However, you would be well aware that we are required to provide staff to provide the same care, for the same residents, With the same categories, under the same Government Standards and Residents' Rights.

Southern States generate additional costs because of the cold. Queensland generates additional costs because of the heat. The aged care industry and its care for residents and their quality of life is the same.

The thought of Warrina Innisfail ever having to close would be devastating to residents, relatives, staff and the town.

Our major source of income is through resident care fees and Government subsidies both of which are government controlled.

Government requirements for facilities to meet all standards, documentation, certification, accreditation and administrative requirements have greatly increased expenditure.

Warrina Innisfail has no doubt that the government regulations were necessary simply to lift the standard within the aged care industry. Having said that adequate financial consideration should be made to compensate for the additional administrative costs involved.

Warrina Innisfail appreciates the 'Terms of Reference' and the enormity of the inquiry concerning such a wide range of considerations relative to the nursing home subsidy issue.

Nevertheless we respectfully remind you that we in the simple rural communities need a fair go all round, with a fair share of funding so that we can effectively provide the quality of life to our residents and still provide resources for the future.

Yours faithfully,



D.M. Allen

Chief Executive Officer

The following figures have been compiled using our current residents and their respective category subsidy and comparing them against the subsidies, that would be paid if they resided in a nursing home in another State.

Same residents in a forty [40] bed nursing home in -

TAS	would attract	\$217109.00	per annum more than	Warrina
NT	would attract	\$184069.00	per annum wore than	Warrina
NSW	would attract	\$161658.00	per annum more than	Warrina
ACT	would attract	\$126983.00	per annum more than	Warrina
WA	would attract	\$123439.00	per annum more than	Warrina
SA	would attract	\$ 89928.00	per annum more than	Warrina

Warrina Innisfail provides the same care and is subject to the same stringent standards, rules and regulations.

