

2 May 2013

Dr Ian Holland  
Committee Secretary  
Community Affairs Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
Canberra, ACT 2600  
Email: [community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Dr Holland:

Further to our appearance at the Committee's hearing in Melbourne on 1 May 2013 and on behalf of the South West Aged Care Alliance (submission registered under Cobden District Health Services), we wish to thank you for the opportunity to provide the panel with further evidence to support the review process of the Aged Care Bill 2013 and its associated legislation.

We feel it is important we forward this correspondence to you to reinforce to the Committee our strong belief the bills in their current composition, pose a severe threat to the communities that we service. Within our Alliance there are a minimum of 243 residential aged care residents who stand to be impacted by the proposed changes. Operating within strict budgets as a result of recent cut backs in funding presents ongoing challenges and if we are again forced to suffer a further drop in our core funding streams, the industries viability and sustainability will be called into question.

These changes are the most significant and important changes to the aged care industry for a considerable length of time and will have far reaching effects on how the industry will operate well into the future. This is not a process that should be rushed.

Currently, there are a number of issues raised by various industry representatives that must be addressed by the government before any legislation is passed. All the relevant information must be made available for the industry to discuss and make informed feedback to the government.

It is only after this consultative process is taken and all parties are fully aware of the ramifications of the legislation, should it then be tabled in Parliament. It would be a travesty of justice to allow these proposals to be tabled in Parliament based on half information, unclear timelines and lack of full details.

We would urge the Senate Committee to reject the current proposals and recommend they not be passed in Parliament.

Sincerely yours,

Jeannine Creely, Chair  
South West Aged Care Alliance