



The Senior Clerk,
Senate Committee on Community Affairs,
Parliament House, Canberra, ACT
By email: seniorclerk.committees.sen@aph.gov.au

10 November, 2021

Dear Sir,

Re: Aged Care and other Legislation Amendment (Royal Commission Response No 2) Bill 2021: 9th Schedule.

Re: Submission by Mr Rodney Lewis, Senior Solicitor, Elder Law Legal Services, Sydney, dated 8/11/2021

I refer to the above Inquiry being pursued by your committee, and Mr Lewis' submission.

Carers' Circle supports Mr Lewis' submission in relation to his analysis of the 9th Schedule, and its proposal to grant immunity from civil and criminal claims and charges under certain circumstances.

As advocates for the children of ageing parents and older people themselves, Carers' Circle believes these aspects of the Bill may do great harm to residents in aged care facilities who are already quite vulnerable – as evidenced by the Aged Care Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

In addition, it is our understanding that these aspects of the Bill are also contrary to the rule of law and deny Australian citizens their rights, therefore must be rejected by the Parliament, for the reasons provided by Mr. Lewis.

Our older Australians deserve better and the Australian Government is making inroads to improving the aged care system through its five pillars of reform. To allow this Bill to pass would not only be in opposition to the spirit of reform to improve the lives of older people, but would be in direct contravention of it.

Yours sincerely,

Michelle Chaperon
Founder
Carers' Circle – Caring for ageing parents