



HALL & PRIOR

Residential Health & Aged Care Organisation

10 May 2013

Dr Ian Holland
Secretary
Senate Community Affairs Committee

Via Email: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Dr Holland

AGED CARE INQUIRY – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

During my appearance before the Committee on Monday, 29 April 2013, the following questions were put to me on notice. Below are responses to these questions.

The proportion of regional areas:

- The Hall & Prior Aged Care Organisation operates one regional facility. This facility operates 86 residential places and 60 Commonwealth funded community packages. In addition it provides 20 community based transition care packages under contract from the Western Australian Government.

The difference between low and high care:

- The Hall & Prior Aged Care Organisation is a predominately high care provider. Of its approximately 1,200 places, only 16 provide low care.
- Currently the list of care and services that must be provided to care recipients is based on whether they are assessed as requiring low or high level residential care. These requirements are outlined in the Residential Care Manual that can be accessed at www.resicaremanual.health.gov.au

Regional impact:

- I have nothing to add to what was covered in my submission

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander care:

- Any amendments to legislation must ensure equity of access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents.
- The current viability supplement assists with this, however the current criteria for accessing the viability supplement is restrictive (ie the need to provide services to greater than 50% of residents within a service).
- I would support an extension of the viability supplement so that it covers all indigenous (and homeless) residents.

Incentive to build new facilities or significantly upgrade existing facilities:

- The announcement that the Government will pay a higher accommodation supplement to facilities that have completed a significant refurbishment is well received.
- The vast majority of residential aged care services are provided from facilities built greater than ten years ago. It is imperative to the aged care system that these facilities remain an attractive option.

- The announced initiative will give providers confidence to invest in significantly refurbishing their existing facilities.
- Previous packages such as the Zero Real Interest Loans have been beneficial in supporting providers to build new facilities. Such measures should be continued, as there will be the requirement to add capacity to the aged care system.
- In recent times, the funding of the construction of new facilities has been reliant on the receipt of accommodation bonds from residents. However as bonds could previously only be charged for low care or extra service places, the majority of new facilities being built have been extra service facilities. If this continues, it has the potential to reduce access to services for people who cannot afford (or do not want) extra services. The removal of the high / low differentiation will enable accommodation bonds to be charged for standard high care places. This should encourage additional investment in new facilities, and also ensure that these places are not restricted to extra service places.

Thank you for the opportunity to present to your Committee. You have the opportunity to make a significant and meaningful change to the Australian Aged Care Industry. I encourage you to support the legislation and ensure it is approved.

Yours sincerely

GRAEME PRIOR
Chief Executive Officer