

PETITION

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ASSEMBLED IN PARLIAMENT:

The Petition of certain concerned Australian citizens points out to the House that:

- quality residential and community care services should be available when and where they are needed and at a price that fairly reflects people's individual and financial circumstances;
- the appropriate funding of residential and community aged care is an Australian Government responsibility
- the future quality and consistency of residential and community aged care remains uncertain because all care providers continue to operate in a climate where their costs are rising faster than their income;
- closure of residential and community aged care services is inevitable due to inadequate recurrent funding by Government.
- the ability of providers to offer aged care facilities that are safe, comfortable and functional for residents, will decrease dramatically in future, unless better methods of allowing access to funds for capital works and refurbishment are introduced; and,
- quality and timely care of recipients of residential and community care is only possible if providers have access to appropriately skilled and motivated staff.

Your Petitioners therefore pray that the House of Representatives should:

- provide an immediate increase in aged and community care funding through an increase in indexation by 3% effective from 1 July 2008;
- ensure that future Indexation be set in accord with the Australian Government and States health and disability funding agreements in line with 29 November 2008 agreements (for the next five (5) years) and,
- develop a new capital funding system that allows sufficient funds to be raised to cover realistic future building needs.