

I am concerned about the power of Office of the Public Advocate to seek orders to have elderly people removed from their homes.

Recently the Office of the Public Advocate investigated my mother for choosing to leave a nursing home. And despite there being no evidence of harm or danger, and no conclusive proof as to her capacity or incapacity OPA recommended to VCAT that she be returned to the nursing home. My mother vehemently opposes this view as she has found happiness living with me, her son, and her mother, in her mother's house.

We are in the process of appealing the VCAT decision that my mother return to the the nursing home on the ground that she does have the capacity to make lifestyle decisions. My mother has noticeably improved since living with us over the last 2 months and she is now on a medication reduction programme.

To wrench an elderly woman from her mother's home after she has chosen to live with her mother and son is unAustralian. For OPA to apply for orders to break and enter our property and drag mum away against her will is the act of a bandit. It reminds me of the past shameful practice of the dispossession of Aboriginals from their families.

Please protect the natural justice right of the elderly to choose where they live and review the powers of OPA and the guardian and administration act.

Yours sincerely

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