

My mother was ordered back to a nursing home by the Office of the Public Advocate. My mother was opposed to this order and appealed to VCAT. VCAT found my mother to have the capacity to make lifestyle decisions and revoked OPA's powers. My mother won the right to choose where she live.

It was a happy ending for my mother, her son, and her mother. Yet, not all elderly people have the support or resources to appeal a VCAT ruling.

In the name of defending the vulnerable OPA showed itself to be heavy handed, dismissing my mother's wishes as 'dementia talk'. It was truly frightening to witness unqualified public servants forming decisions as to capacity, and, making judgments about family on the basis of unsubstantiated allegations. OPA appeared to be a law unto itself being more interested in gaining power than serving the truth.

I ask the committee to review the role of the Office of the Public Advocate.

Yours sincerely

RECEIVED  
21 DEC 2006  
BY: LACA

Submission No..... 83.1
Date Received.....