

I would like to submit just a few concerns regarding the subject of future services for the aged in Australia. My role is director of Macarthur Care in Campbelltown. We run a service for adults who have disabilities or who are aged or isolated. I have relatively few years of experience in this field but have concerns nevertheless.

\* My major concern is for people with mental health problems. Mental health has been given a low priority as far as ensuring people are cared for who are not capable of maintaining care for themselves. Many mental health patients wander the streets and are not capable of caring for themselves in an appropriate manner. They have difficulty in taking medication and become part of the homeless population. It would be fantastic to see the people who are not suitable to be released straight back into their homes and/or the community, have a "Half Way House" where they can go for supervision and reinforcing of life skills after they have been treated in places like Waratah House. This applies for all ages to prevent premature illness/death of mentally ill people.

\* Also, the housing that is no longer to be used for people with physical disabilities because of its "institutional" qualities eg) Beverley Park Campbelltown, could be used to house the aged/homeless mentally ill. Since the institutions have been closed down for these people, it should not be acceptable to society, that they are out of sight and out of mind and lucky to survive on the streets.

\* I am concerned for people who are mobile and have a mild disability eg) developmental delay, who have ageing parents. How do they get on when their parents pass away? They have some life skills but are not independent enough to make it on their own. They need housing that takes into account their need for support/guidance, privacy and some independence and social activity.

\* There needs to be an option of settling people, who have been living with ageing family members/ parents who are their carers, into homes etc long before their carers pass away to ensure that both parties are satisfied with the living arrangements and the carer can have some years rest and eventually die in peace knowing that their loved one is already satisfactorily taken care of.

Thank you for your attention to my concerns  
Leonie Musgrove  
Macarthur Care