



THE HON MARK BUTLER MP  
MINISTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND AGEING  
MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS  
MINISTER FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION  
MINISTER ASSISTING THE PRIME MINISTER ON MENTAL HEALTH REFORM

756 / 1206 B

The Hon John Murphy MP  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Petitions  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr ~~Murphy~~

Thank you for your letter of 18 March 2013 regarding a recent submission to the Standing Committee on Petitions which included reference to support for culturally appropriate aged care services.

The Australian Government is committed to ensuring equitable access to high quality culturally appropriate aged care for all Australians, including people from diverse backgrounds.

On 20 December 2012, the *National Ageing and Aged Care Strategy for People from CALD Backgrounds* (the Strategy) was released. The Strategy has been developed to inform the way the Government responds to the needs of older people from CALD backgrounds and to better support the aged care sector to deliver care that is sensitive and appropriate to their needs. The Strategy is available on the Department of Health and Ageing's website [www.health.gov.au/CALDStrategy](http://www.health.gov.au/CALDStrategy).

The Strategy is being used to guide future funding priorities of the *Living Longer Living Better* aged care reform package, which includes an allocation of \$24.4 million over five years, to ensure older people from diverse backgrounds can access aged care services that are specific to their needs. This work will support the aims and objectives set out in the Strategy.

My Department will be reporting annually on the progress of the Strategy. Reports will be made publicly available and reviewed by key stakeholders to set priorities for subsequent reporting periods.

I trust that the above information if of use.

Yours sincerely

MARK BUTLER

15 APR 2013