

The Secretary
Senate Community Affairs Reference Committee
Suite S1 59
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

INQUIRY INTO AGED CARE

Active smoking and second hand smoke is injurious, most especially to the frail aged, and is highly unpleasant. Few aged persons smoke. Smoking is not a right, it is a wrong, harmful to the smoker and to others and of great cost to the community. It also adds considerably to the costs of cleaning and of maintenance.

Facilities for the aged should be entirely smokefree at all times, by residents, staff and visitors. It is desirable that those employed in caring for the aged in whatever capacity are non-smokers, most especially if in close contact with their clients. Advice and assistance in quitting should be offered to those who seek employment, to enable them to qualify. Those who are already employed should be encouraged to quit.

Sympathetic advice and assistance in quitting should also be made available to the elderly who smoke to enable them to qualify for residential care. They are likely to be well motivated and to appreciate becoming a non-smoker. It will be in their own best interests.



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