

## SENATE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS REFERENCES COMMITTEE

### INQUIRY INTO AGED CARE

Submission  
By  
Margaret Ryan

30 July 2004

#### **The adequacy of Home and Community Care programs in meeting the current and projected needs of the elderly**

1. In May 2004 the Victorian Auditor-General reported on the *Delivery of home and community care services by local government*. The objectives of the audit were to

- determine whether there were effective planning and reporting processes at the state and local government levels to support the delivery of HACC services by Councils; and
- determine whether Councils had systems in place to ensure the timely and appropriate delivery of HACC services.

While it could be said that this report was generally favourable, it nevertheless highlights that there are shortcomings in current systems and planning for the future, and in ensuring suitable staff...

2. The plight of aged parents caring for a disabled son or daughter at home deserves special consideration by this inquiry.

3. In Victoria as at 31 December 2003 (Hansard, Legislative Council, Q 880 on 22 April 2004) there were 3155 individuals with disabilities on the waiting list/Service Needs Register for shared supported accommodation, and 1283 for home-based support. I would suggest to the Inquiry that many of these people would have aged carers. These figures highlight two things: one, that there is a demand for residential care rather than "Home and Community Care" type services - and two, there is a concurrent demand for "Home and Community Care" type services. Consequently, determining the adequacy of Home and Community Care programs must take into account the residential care available.

4. The recent Scope survey of the needs of carers of their clients highlights that the numbers on Victoria's Service Needs Register are conservative. The report also highlights that the carers expect a greater need for services in five years time. I would suggest to the Inquiry that, albeit a small sample (less than 300) the response accords with what one knows anecdotally is likely to be the situation in Victoria in five years time.

5. I would suggest to the Inquiry that there is insufficient data analysis of HACC usage by people with disabilities under the age of 65 who have aged carers. **It is suggested** that the Inquiry seek better information of the support given to aged carers by the HACC program.

**The appropriateness of young people with disabilities being accommodated in residential aged care facilities**

6. The efforts of the Young People in Nursing Homes Project are to be applauded in casting light on aged care places being taken by non-aged people. That there are not facilities offering this level of care for people with disabilities under 65 is a consequence of the denial by influential disability advocacy groups of the health needs of people with disabilities. The denigration of the “health model” of care” for people with disabilities to promote the “social model” is to be deplored.

7. In considering the appropriateness of accommodation for young people with disabilities, **it is suggested** that the inquiry take into account the WHO International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health and the necessity to consider health and social aspects of disability as a multi-dimensional concept.

---