

Elton Humphery
Committee Secretary
Senate Affairs Legislation Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Humphery

Thank you for the invitation for UnitingCare Australia to make a submission to the Community Affairs Legislation Committee with regard to the Aged Care (Bond Security) Bill 2005, the Aged Care (Bond Security) Levy Bill 2005 and the Aged Care Amendment (2005 Measures No. 1) Bill 2005.

Due to the short notification of this inquiry, we are unable to provide a submission to the Committee. We would however, be willing to bring experts from our aged care network to the public hearing if that would be of assistance to the Committee.

The following issues arising from the Bills under consideration would be of interest to our members:

- The lack of clarity regarding the potential liability for providers of aged care services in the event that bonds are unable to be paid by a defaulting provider
- The reasonableness of the industry being responsible for bonds unable to be paid by a defaulting provider
- The lack of data or financial modelling available to indicate what the levies on providers are likely to be in the event they are responsible for bonds unable to be paid by a defaulting provider
- The seeming discrepancy in the requirement to repay bonds within 14 days and the potential difficulty to do so when a bond is repaid in the event of a person dying and the legal requirement of a provider having to wait to refund the amount until probate has been obtained

I look forward to hearing from you regarding the hearing, and to sharing with our network the outcomes from the work of the Committee with regard to these Bills.

Yours sincerely



Lin Hatfield Dodds
National Director

24 February 2006