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06/39

Mr Elton Humphrey
Committee Secretary
Community Affairs Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Humphrey

Aged Care Amendment (Residential Care) Bill 2006

Thank you for inviting a submission from the AMA on the Aged Care Amendment (Residential Care) Bill 2006.

The AMA is supportive of any reforms that encourage a consistent approach to aged care assets testing and pension assets testing processes. The changes to the Bill provide for a sensible and simplified approach to this and are supported by the AMA.

The AMA also supports any changes that improve the flexibility with which Aged Care Assessment Teams (ACATs) operate. Delegating ACATs with the power to formally approve respite extensions in addition to assessing applications for extensions achieves that. However, the availability of residential aged care beds for respite may be a limiting factor and needs to be considered.

I look forward to hearing the outcomes from your public hearings in Melbourne and Canberra in the upcoming weeks.

Yours sincerely

Dr Makesh Haikerwal
President

2 September 2006

mh:sc