

Committee Secretary,
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee,
PO Box 6100
Parliament House,
Canberra, A.C.T. 2600

21st April 2009

Dear Sir/Madam,

Inquiry into residential and community aged care in Australia.

I am writing to you as Chairman of Family Based Care Ass. in Northern Tasmania, a not-for-profit organisation that provides assistance to the elderly and people with disability, to enable them to remain in their own home as long as possible.

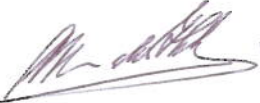
Although I fully realise that the time for submissions expired some time ago, I wish to express our concern about the articles in the Press regarding the fact that many Residential Care facilities are running at a financial loss and that some have been forced to close their doors altogether. For a number of years I was a Board Member of two organisations that provided residential care and I know from experience how tight the financial restraints are.

Our organisation is under pressure every year to provide more services as the number of elderly persons who need help and want to stay at home is rapidly increasing. Our staff are under constant pressure to provide those services as efficiently and economically as possible, but there is always more need than finances permit.

We are now greatly concerned that the pressure for more services on organisations such as ours will increase substantially if more organisations providing residential care have to restrict or cancel their building programs or worse would be forced to close their doors completely.

This would be disastrous.

Yours sincerely,



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President

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