

Thursday 7 December 2017

LASA acknowledges Inquiry into Australia's quality of aged care but concerned about duplication

Australia's peak age services body, Leading Age Services Australia (LASA), acknowledged today's commencement of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport Inquiry into the Quality of Care in Residential Aged Care Facilities in Australia.

LASA CEO Sean Rooney said aged care safety and quality are not negotiable.

"Age services providers, government and the community all share a desire for a high performing aged care sector, supported by a quality assurance and accreditation system that meets the needs of older Australians and upholds the standards the community rightfully expects when it comes to quality of care," Mr Rooney said.

"LASA leads and supports efforts to continuously improve quality in the age services industry.

"We support this Inquiry but are concerned that with the Federal Government already considering a number of significant inputs that will further drive aged care quality and reform, the work of the Inquiry may duplicate research and findings already undertaken and slow down the process of reform at a critical time."

These inputs include the Tune Report on the Aged Care Legislated Review, the Carnell Paterson Report into the government's quality accreditation systems and processes, a Senate inquiry into aged care quality assessment and accreditation, an Aged Care Single Quality Framework, a Resource Utilisation and Classification Study, Increasing Choice in Home Care changes, and the new Aged Care Workforce Strategy Taskforce.

Mr Rooney said data from the aged care complaints commissioner demonstrates that "overwhelmingly, the majority of facilities provide excellent care and are working continually to improve services."

"However, our commitment to ensuring quality and safety is emphatic and we will work with the government to support initiatives that are effective in reaching this end," Mr Rooney said.

The Inquiry, to be Chaired by Mr Trent Zimmerman MP, will examine Australia's residential aged care system, in particular the quality of care and services provided to aged care residents.

The Committee will also consider the consumer protections available for aged care residents. Submissions from interested individuals and organisations are invited by Thursday, 8 February 2018.

LASA will closely examine the Terms of Reference of this Inquiry and engage with Members before responding.

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