



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Senate Community Affairs References Committee

**Senate inquiry into aged care quality assessment and accreditation**

The Chair of the Senate Community Affairs Committee has today issued a public statement addressing stakeholder concerns raised following recent media reporting of the committee's inquiry into the aged care quality assessment and accreditation framework. The committee is inquiring into the effectiveness of the aged care quality assessment and accreditation framework for protecting residents from abuse and poor practices.

"This inquiry arose in the wake of the shocking reported incidents in the Makk and McLeay Aged Mental Health Care Service at Oakden in South Australia, and is examining the current aged care framework in the context of these incidents," Chair of the committee, Senator Rachel Siewert, said.

"I wish to correct any misapprehensions about the inquiry that may have arisen due to a recent media report. The committee has received approximately 46 submissions from relevant state and federal government agencies, aged care providers and their representative organisations, advocacy groups, medical and allied health practitioner groups, aged care workers and, significantly, a number of family members of patients in aged care.

"A number of these submissions deal with very sensitive and often quite distressing matters for the people involved, and the committee carefully considers each submission as it comes in. Publication on the website occurs once a submission has been thoroughly reviewed, sometimes in consultation with the submitters, and when resources are available to do so."

"The committee is also aware that there are a number of concurrent reviews of both the specific incidents in relation to the reported incidents at the Oakden facility, as well as a broader review being undertaken by the Minister for Aged Care. Due to this, the committee has been flexible in receiving submissions beyond the formal closing date, and has granted extensions to a number of organisations to enable them to provide a more comprehensive submission to the inquiry."

The committee will be holding public hearings in November in Adelaide, where it will invite organisations and individuals to provide further evidence.

"This inquiry has been given a longer timeframe, with a reporting deadline of February 2018, precisely in order to enable careful consideration of all relevant information and evidence to be taken from a wide range of sources", Senator Siewert said.

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**DATE REFERRED**  
13 June 2017

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**SUBMISSIONS CLOSE**  
3 August 2017

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**NEXT HEARINGS**  
21 November –  
Adelaide  
Further hearings to be  
advised

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**REPORTING DATE**  
18 February 2018

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**  
Senator Rachel Siewert  
(Chair)  
Senator Slade Brockman  
(Deputy Chair)  
Senator Jonathon Duniam  
Senator Helen Polley  
Senator Louise Pratt  
Senator Murray Watt  
**Other Senators  
participating:**  
Senator Stirling Griff  
Senator Skye Kakoschke-  
Moore  
Senator Nick Xenophon

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