



Ian Holland
Secretary

Dear Mr Holland,

Thankyou for the opportunity to respond to the Inquiry into Aged Care (Living Longer Living Better) Bill 2013.

We are supportive of the new flexible arrangements for payment by residents, and of the continuing protection of refundable accommodation bonds by the Commonwealth.

We are supportive of the continuing dementia supplements and the new veteran mental health supplement. This acknowledges that patients with these conditions need types or levels of care that cannot always be measured as objectively as those with physical disability. It may also ease the difficulty that is not infrequently experienced when it comes to sourcing facilities to accommodate patients with dementia, particularly those with behavioural problems.

We are also supportive of the workforce supplement which we envisage will assist in staff retention. We would hope that with ongoing training for staff and the ability to increase retention this should improve quality of care in residential aged care facilities.

While we are supportive of removing the distinction between low level care and high level care, it will be important to ensure that those patients who have high care needs are appropriately cared for, and those with lower care needs are not “over serviced”. To address this, there will need to be a mechanism whereby care needs are matched to facility types, or at the very least needs to be visible to facilities so that there is assurance that resources, in particular staffing and equipment are appropriately matched.

Thankyou for the opportunity to comment

Kind regards

Dr Amanda Boudville
Geriatrician SKHS/RPH
Head of Aged Care SKHS
Acting Deputy Director Clinical Services SKHS

Australian and New Zealand Society for Geriatric Medicine Inc.
145 Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000 Telephone (61-2) 9256 5460 Facsimile (61-2) 9241 3458
Email admin@anzsgm.org Website <http://www.anzsgm.org>
ABN 21 144 094 540