

Apolline Kohen  
Committee Secretary  
Standing Committee  
on Community Affairs  
GPO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

*Via email:*  
*community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au*

**aras**  
**Aged Rights  
Advocacy Service**

ABN 72 214 044 225  
ARBN 639 390140

Phone: (08) 8232 5377  
1800 700 600 (Country Toll Free)

**aras@agedrights.asn.au**  
**www.sa.agedrights.asn.au**

ARAS proudly acknowledges her Excellency  
the Honourable Frances Adamson AC,  
Governor of South Australia, and  
Mr Rod Buntin as our Patrons.

7 August 2025

To The Committee Secretary

**Re: Aged Care (Accommodation Payment Security) Levy Amendment Bill 2025 Submission**

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our comments on the *Aged Care Levy Amendment Bill*. As an organization committed to safeguarding the rights of older Australians, we are keenly aware of the significance of ensuring timely decisions for the discharge of hospital patients living with dementia and/or impaired decision-making capacity.

To give context to our commentary we highlight the role of the Aged Rights Advocacy Service (SA) (ARAS) in supporting older South Australians. ARAS provides free individual advocacy, information, and education and is part of the Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN), which delivers the National Aged Care Advocacy Program (NACAP). In 2023-24, OPAN supported over 44,400 older Australians. ARAS advocates for older people's rights through Submissions, Parliamentary Committee appearances, consultations, and media engagement. During the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, ARAS's significant contributions led to recommendations for enhanced advocacy services and increased funding.

ARAS notes the purpose of amendment is to ensure the continued operation of the Accommodation Payment Guarantee Scheme which protects residents lump sum accommodation payments through the continued requirement to have in place a number of consumer regulatory protection mechanisms. ARAS also notes this amendment supports the new Aged Care Act 2024 to effectively levy aged care providers to recover lump sums to ensure on exit from the residential aged care service the applicable lump sum accommodation is returned to the resident (or their estate).

We have reviewed the proposed amendments to the *Aged Care Levy Amendment Bill* and we are satisfied that these amendments are necessary to ensure that the Aged Care (Accommodation Payment Security) Levy Act 2006 functions as intended.

Yours sincerely

**Carolanne Barkla**  
Chief Executive

Regional Offices by appointment only

**Dulwich**  
175 Fullarton Road  
Dulwich SA 5065

**Berri**  
21 Denny Street  
Berri SA 5343

**Victor Harbor**  
9/46-52 Ocean Street  
Victor Harbor SA 5211  
(access from Coral Street)

**Nuriootpa**  
2/1 First Street  
Nuriootpa SA 5355

