

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health and Aged Care

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs Legislation Committee

Inquiry into the Aged Care Bill 2024 (Provisions)

03 October 2024

PDR Number: IQ24-000162

First Nations Aged Care Commissioner

Written

Senator: Marielle Smith

Question:

Why isn't the First Nations Aged Care Commissioner included in the Bill

Answer:

Establishing a First Nations Aged Care Commissioner (FNACC) is a critical part of delivering recommendation 49 of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety and building an aged care system that achieves equitable access and outcomes for older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The FNACC is expected to be legislated, pending decisions of government on the outcomes of consultations conducted during 2024.

The FNACC would then be explicitly referenced in the new Aged Care Act and associated rules.

Ms Andrea Kelly was appointed as interim FNACC and commenced in January this year.

The interim Commissioner has completed extensive national consultations about the role and design of a permanent Commissioner, and about the current and future needs of older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The interim Commissioner is using what she has heard to advocate to government and other aged care organisations for changes that will increase the cultural safety of aged care and help to close the gap in aged care.