

MEDIA RELEASE

21 APRIL 2010

Aged care inquiry a major boost for reform

The Campaign for Care of Older Australians (CCOA) has warmly welcomed the announcement of terms of reference for the Productivity Commission inquiry into aged care.

“We are delighted that the myriad issues confronting aged care will at last be assessed in a comprehensive inquiry to be finalised within 12 months,” CCOA said.

“The terms of reference outlined today address our concerns regarding the considerable obstacles to providing quality care allowing for access and choice for older people within a sustainable system.

“We are heartened that the real costs of providing accommodation and care will be considered along with funding implications for an appropriately skilled workforce and capital investment needed to build aged care facilities.

“Importantly, the terms of reference recognise that independence, social participation and social inclusion are vital for the well being of older Australians.

“It is also encouraging to see care needs of older people driving the reform agenda.

CCOA said the substantial body of work already undertaken by a range of inquiries including the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission and the recent Senate Inquiry would be an asset for the Productivity Commission.

“We look forward to participating in the inquiry and seek the Government’s commitment to the prompt implementation of real changes likely to flow from the Commission’s recommendations.

“We eagerly anticipate the Prime Minister’s announcement of a new era for the care of older people this time next year.”

CCOA comprises 11 national organisations providing community and residential aged care and housing.

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Aged & Community Services Australia, Aged Care Association Australia, Anglicare Australia, Baptist Care Australia, Catholic Health Australia, Churches of Christ Living Care, Sir Moses Montefiore Jewish Homes, Lutheran Aged Care Australia, The Salvation Army Aged Care Plus, The National Presbyterian Aged Care Network, UnitingCare Australia