

# Labor



**Julie Collins MP**

Federal Member for Franklin

Ms Kasy Chambers  
CEO  
Anglicare Australia  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
11 Edgar Street  
**AINSLIE ACT 2602**

Dear Ms ~~Chambers~~ *Kasy*

Thank you for writing to me regarding Labor's vision for Aged Care.

Firstly, if elected on 18 May, 2019 Labor will lead on aged care.

As you know I, and my Labor colleagues, have continued to strongly advocate for older Australians both publicly and in the Parliament. This includes keeping the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government to account on issues raised in your letter.

Since the last election the Government has announced a Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

We know the Liberals called the Royal Commission because they failed to drive reform across the aged care sector over the past six years:

- There are 128,000 older Australians waiting for their approved level of home care package.
- The Liberals cut almost \$2 billion from residential aged care.
- The Liberals sat on dozens of reports, reviews and inquiries about how to improve aged care but instead called a Royal Commission.

A Shorten Labor Government will work with the sector, including all unions, to improve aged care and respond to the Royal Commission's recommendations once they are handed down.

To further improve the quality of care and support a future aged care workforce, an elected Shorten Labor Government will:

- Immediately investigate interventions to ensure older Australians most at need are prioritised for home care.
- Provide opportunities through TAFE so that up to 20,000 aged care workers can obtain or improve their qualifications.
- Immediately speed up implementation of the *A Matter of Care* workforce strategy to address inadequate staffing in aged care.

- Ensure that for residential aged care facilities there is a registered nurse present, on site, 24 hours a day.
- Publish the skill mix of the workforce employed at every residential aged care facility to ensure the appropriate skills mix of properly trained staff is present at all times.
- Look at how best to improve access to home care packages and increasing staffing levels and skills.
- Further address the number of GPs working in aged care to provide proper incentives for GPs to do home visits and provide services in residential aged care.

Consistent with Labor's commitment to support Australians with dementia and their families and carers, a Shorten Labor Government will:

- Make improving the care of Australians with dementia a national priority.
- Remove the complexity of multiple interactions between the Department of Health and Ageing, Centrelink, aged care providers, and the broader health care system for Australians with dementia and their families.
- Improve the training of aged care staff to improve the workforce's understanding of dementia, including scholarships for nurses and carers to undertake specialist dementia care training.

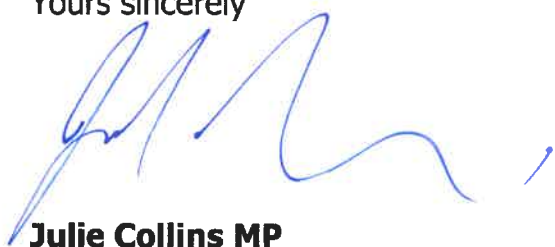
Labor also recognises the unique requirements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and LGBTIQ communities, and will prioritise establishing programs that focus on improved support for these groups.

We were also pleased to announce that nearly three million pensioners will get \$1000 of free dental work every two years under a Labor government. This \$2.4 billion policy is the next step towards Labor's vision of universal access to dental care in Australia.

Be assured that only Labor will be in a position to improve aged care and adequately respond to the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

Once again, thank you for writing to me.

Yours sincerely



**Julie Collins MP**

Shadow Minister for Ageing and Mental Health  
Federal Member for Franklin

**13** May 2019