

26 September 2018

The Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP
Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT 2600

E: minister.wyatt@health.gov.au

Dear Minister Wyatt,

Re: Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety – Consultation to develop detailed Terms of Reference

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) is Australia's largest medical organisation representing more than 39,000 members, who provide more than 140,000 services each year for over 21.6 million patients across Australia.

The RACGP supports the general practice profession in advocating for the health and welfare of the nation. The RACGP therefore has a strong interest in the care of residents in residential aged care facilities (RACFs), and publishes *Medical care of older persons in residential aged care facilities* (Silver Book), one of the RACGP's flagship publications.

The RACGP believes the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety should examine:

- Government oversight and management of the aged care sector, including:
 - effectiveness of existing legislation to protect residents
 - financial arrangements used by government and monitoring of outcomes achieved
 - the effect of corporate involvement in the aged care sector, including use of 'refundable accommodation deposits' and other financial models
 - establishment and maintenance of appropriate systems of care for specialised need groups in aged care facilities, including:
 - dementia
 - palliative and end-of-life care
 - psychological and behavioural therapies
 - young people
- Role of aged care facilities in a modern health system, including:
 - residential versus clinical role
 - legislative and funding models relating to clinical roles and functions

- Clinical governance in aged care facilities, including:
 - monitoring safety and care of patients, including:
 - availability of medical equipment for clinical care
 - availability and use of, electronic medical records and medication systems
 - availability of wound care products
 - availability of non-drug interventions (eg exercise, enrichment activities)
 - quality improvement processes (eg patient safety analysis, data-driven learning, change management)
 - existing quality assurance elements (eg accreditation)
 - clinical coverage and staffing arrangements for aged care facilities, including:
 - minimum staffing ratio related to patient complexity to fulfil federal and state/territory obligations (if any)
 - the role of general practitioners in aged care facilities, including barriers to, and incentives for, general practitioners to attend aged care facilities
 - identification and management of health priorities in aged care facilities, including:
 - shared-decision-making informed by patient values and realistic goals of treatment
 - antimicrobial stewardship
 - psychoactive medication management
 - harmful polypharmacy
 - inappropriate hospitalisation
 - use of urgent after-hour visits.

We look forward to actively participating in the Royal Commission.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Bastian Seidel

President