

Draft report on the care of older Australians

What does it mean for caring
families?

Australian Association of Gerontology
(Victorian Division)

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Qualifications

- Large complex report still under analysis
- Different perceptions of meaning
- More comprehensive analysis will inform further submission and hearing presentation

The good things

- Recognition of the support and assistance provided by families
- Better consumer choice and control
- Care continuum- no barriers to the types of services accessed
- Needs assessment for caring families (sustainability)
- Addresses system problems – continuity, over regulation, intergenerational equity

The issues for caring families

- Increased focus on community care
- Person centred, individualised, restorative and participatory care for older people and...
- Focus on caring families is limited to 'resourcing capacity' and 'reducing stress'
- No focus on support preventing carer stress or breakdown

Need for preventive support and assistance

- Carer support a continuation of current limited episodic funding?
- No investment to support employment participation
- Layered, 'building block' approach funds specialised care needs for older people but...
- No equivalent building blocks to address known risks to carer health and well being and family breakdown

Interdependence is the lived experience

- Most vulnerable seniors are cared for and cared about by families and friends
- Long relationships; mutual support and interdependence are characteristic
- Individualised person centred care ignores the inter-related needs of the older person and their family

Desirable principles in aged care reform

- Person centred, and family focused
- Partnership planning for interrelated needs
- Replanning at transition/change points
- Explicitly combining paid and unpaid care
- Reframing respite to address 'whole family support'
- Acknowledge the respite effect of many services and supports

Reforms must acknowledge interdependence

- Family inclusive targeting and guidelines
- Weight funding for care entitlements to address family needs
- Preventive focus on sustaining care
- Integrate services to achieve family goals
- Lever family inclusive practices in residential care via the Act, Principles, Standards and Aged Care Needs Assessment Instrument

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