



Submission to the Department of Social Services on designing the new integrated carer support service

16 December 2016

About us

The Australian Association of Gerontology (AAG) is Australia's peak national body linking professionals working across the multidisciplinary fields of ageing. Since 1964, we have connected professionals to help them connect and collaborate on evidence based approaches to ageing. AAG's goal is to expand knowledge of ageing in order to improve the experience of ageing. With over 1,000 members across every State and Territory in Australia, our members include researchers, geriatricians, nurses, allied health professionals, aged care practitioners, policy makers and other gerontology experts. AAG has 17 Collaborating Research Centres that represent all major research in ageing in Australia

Endorsement of Carers Australia submission

AAG endorses the Carers Australia submission to this consultation.

AAG comments

AAG raises the following additional issue for consideration.

We acknowledge that the proposed carer support service is designed to address the general needs of all carers. However, we believe there should be greater consideration given to identifying and addressing the specific needs of carers of older people (particularly those with dementia) and carers who are older people themselves.

We note that the draft service delivery model (at page 38) refers to ensuring that service delivery meets the needs of "*particular cohorts of carers*" including those from CALD, ATSI and LGBTI backgrounds. The model also notes (at page 36) that access to face-to-face needs assessment and targeted financial support will be limited to "*people with a specific need*" or cultural sensitivity.

We suggest that the terms "*particular cohorts of carers*" and/or "*people with a specific need*" should be defined to include carers of older people (particularly those with dementia) and carers who are older people themselves.

Further information is available in our earlier submission dated 16 June 2016.



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Authorisation

This submission has been authorised by the Chief Executive Officer and the President.

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