

29 May 2013

Mr Ben Vincent
Assistant Secretary, Ageing and Aged Care Division
Department of Health & Ageing
GPO Box 9848
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Ben

I write on behalf of the National Aged Care Alliance (NACA) regarding the Home Care Packages CDC draft Guidelines.

Overall NACA members have commented positively on the style, and much of the content, of the draft Guidelines. The incorporation of advice from the NACA CDC Packages Advisory Group is welcome and was noted by all.

Most NACA members have made submissions on behalf of their individual organisations. However at its May meeting NACA discussed the draft guidelines and members unanimously wanted to raise the following issues it believes should be addressed in the final program documentation:

- **Aged Care/Disability Care Interface**

The guidelines appear to be premised on the assumption that Disability Care Australia (DCA) will be fully operational from 1/7/2013. This will not be the case with only a limited number of pilots rolling out around the country. The guidelines need to reflect this reality and support younger people with disabilities continued eligibility to receive packaged care until such time as DCA is fully operational.

- **People with Younger Onset Dementia**

It is NACA's understanding that people with younger onset dementia will be fully eligible for DCA services and support. Therefore the guidelines need to clearly explain:

- ongoing access to ACATs and eligibility for packaged care for people with younger onset dementia during the establishment of DCA; and
- the arrangements when DCA is operational and people can access services through either system with respective governments and programs managing the financial arrangements behind the scenes.

- **Equity of Access**

Vulnerable people in our community must have equity of access to packaged care, including CDC packages. The draft guidelines do not address the strategies that could be pursued to ensure vulnerable people will be supported to access packages or to take advantage of the benefits and opportunities CDC affords. The Aged Care Act 1997 defines a number of special needs groups, including people living in rural and remote areas, and the guidelines should outline how the explicit needs and access issues for each of these groups can, and should be, addressed.

I trust that raising these issues is helpful to you in finalising the guidelines. I would be happy to discuss these in more detail with you if that would be of assistance. NACA looks forward to continuing its advisory role in the work to implement and evaluate CDC packages.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Sparrow". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line that extends to the right.

PAT SPARROW
NACA Secretariat – Aged Care Reform