



RECENT HEARINGS AND SUBMISSIONS

In the last months of 2019 and now into 2020, the Aged Care Royal Commission has conducted the following hearings:

Mudgee Hearing 4-6 November 2019 inquired into arrangements for and issues associated with the provision of aged care services in regional and remote areas, including Multi-Purpose Services. See the ANMF submission here:

<http://bit.ly/anmf-sub-rc-ruralremote>

Hobart Hearing 11-15 November 2019 inquired into the operations of selected Approved Providers that operate RACFs in Tasmania and elsewhere.

Canberra Hearing 9-13 December 2019 inquired into interfaces between the aged care system and the health care system, including Commonwealth and State/Territory programs. It examined whether older people, particularly those living in RACFs are able to access the health services they need as they age. See the ANMF submission here:

<http://bit.ly/anmf-sub-rc-interfaces>

INTERIM REPORT: NEGLECT

On 31 October 2019, the Royal Commission released its interim report, entitled 'Neglect'. It stated clearly the aged care system is cruel and harmful and must be changed.

In December 2019, the Commission released a new consultation paper 'Aged Care Program Redesign: Services for the Future', setting out principles that should underpin the future design of the aged care system including:

- Respect and support for the rights, choices and dignity of older people
- Quality and safe care is fundamental to the operation, funding and regulation of the system
- Provide equity of access
- Be transparent, easy to understand and navigate

- Enable the recruitment and retention of a skilled, professional and caring workforce and be
- Capable of being implemented, monitored and evaluated.

The ANMF commends the Principles proposed by the Royal Commission to underpin the future design of the aged care system. The Consultation Paper also put forward an overview of what the design might look like, with a focus on having a single entry point into the aged care system, streamlined assessment and flexible access to services and care. The ANMF supports many of the features of the proposed design, however, has strongly cautioned against the applicability of consumer directed care as the key model in all aged care settings through the use of individualised funding, particularly in residential care.

The details of how a new system would be designed, implemented and funded have been the subject of workshops over February 2020. The ANMF has been actively involved in the workshops, with Federal Secretary Annie Butler being invited to be a member of the panel of experts discussing how care will be delivered in the future; and Rob Bonner, Director of Operations and Strategy, ANMF (SA Branch), contributing his knowledge to workshop panels exploring the Big Picture issues in aged care and how the system will transition to the future design.

NEXT HEARING

On 21 February 2020, the Royal Commission will hold a hearing in Adelaide where Peter Rozen QC will outline some of the recommendations that Counsel Assisting consider that the Commissioners should make in their final report concerning the future of the aged care workforce.

The ANMF will watch this hearing with great interest - it will be of key importance for members working in aged care and the people in their care.