

ROYAL COMMISSION INTO AGED CARE QUALITY AND SAFETY**RESPONSE OF THE AUSTRALIAN NURSING AND MIDWIFERY FEDERATION****TO A SUBMISSION OF COTA IN RELATION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE****RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE VISITOR CODE**

1. Counsel Assisting the Royal Commission has invited the ANMF to respond to COTA Submission 2 'Lessons of the COVID-19 crisis for Aged Care Reform (RCD.9999.0507.0001) with specific reference to the following paragraph in relation to the development of the Residential Aged Care Visitor Code (the Code):

"At this point we should address the suggestion put to the Commission's Hearing that the Code was developed with reference to workforce representatives. This is incorrect. The initial DRAFT of the Code was negotiated between COTA and other Consumer Peaks, and Provider Peaks. That was because it was providers who were imposing the unreasonable visitor exclusion policies. At the same time other providers were not doing so. However we then consulted on the Draft Code for a week and in that period workforce representatives (unions) had every opportunity to provide input. COTA specifically reached out to the ANMF at national level and received a written submission on the Draft Code from the ANMF. That was considered in the finalisation of the Code, but in response to a question of whether the ANMF wanted to be a signatory part we received a negative response, because the ANMF advised it had developed its own requirements/Code."¹

2. The ANMF agrees that workforce representatives were not involved in the development of the Code.
3. Once developed, the Draft Code was made available for consultation over a period of one week. The ANMF provided a submission in response which noted the absence of consultation with unions and health experts in the development of the Code. A copy of the ANMF submission dated 7 May 2020 is attached to this response and marked ANM.0027.0002.0001. The ANMF's primary concern with the Draft Code was that it failed to address staffing requirements to enable the Code's recommendations to be implemented effectively.²
4. The ANMF has no formal record of any request to be a signatory to the Code. In any event, even had such a request been made, the ANMF would have declined as we considered the Code, as it was then finalised, failed to address staffing requirements for residential aged care in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
5. The ANMF had therefore developed its own document 'ANMF Principles for Safe and Compassionate entry into Nursing Homes': see Exhibit 18-1, Tab 8, ANM.0020.0005.0001.

¹ RCD.9999.0507.0001 at 0008-9.

² ANM.0027.0002.0001 at 0004.