

MEDIA RELEASE

17 September 2018

ROYAL COMMISSION INTO AGED CARE WELCOMED BY NATIONAL AGEING RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The National Ageing Research Institute today welcomed the announcement by the Federal Government of a Royal Commission into Aged Care in Australia.

Associate Professor Briony Dow, Director of NARI, commended the attention and thoroughness that a Royal Commission would bring to making sure that the sector offered the quality of life and quality of care that all older Australians deserve. The shocking stories of ill-treatment and abuse, whilst hopefully rare, are never acceptable. A Royal Commission will collect comprehensive evidence and shed light on the issues to be addressed.

She urged the Government to ensure that the terms of reference were broad to embrace quality of life and not just physical care in aged care facilities. "Ensuring mental wellbeing in care homes is essential, as is proper funding."

"We also need to address the issues that force some older people into aged care prematurely, such as lack of home care, carers needing better support, lack of preventive health strategies, housing, homelessness and elder abuse." Dr Dow said.

She also welcomed the release last week of findings from the Aged Care Workforce Taskforce, which addressed many of the issues of concern to the Royal Commission and provided some potential solutions.

NARI also welcomed the support from the Federal Opposition for the Royal Commission into Aged Care.

About NARI

NARI is the independent medical research institute in Australia focused on ageing and aged care.

For over 40 years, NARI has been a national leader in ageing research, producing work of international significance to apply to real lives, particularly in elder abuse, falls and balance, pain, dementia, physical activity, health ageing, psychosocial and mental health.

Its research program aims to improve health outcomes and aged care practice as well as to guide policy to invest in solutions for positive ageing for Australia's older people.

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