



Symposium on Caring for Older People (The Productivity Commission Inquiry)

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Overview

- 1 Crossroads & legacies – from provider to funder driven (and to consumer-driven?)**
- 2. What do older people want and what is needed to advance aged care systems?**
- 3. Issues and directions for a new aged care system**



1a. How we got to where we are

- Why legacies matter (financial interests, skill sets, public expectations)
- Federalism (divided Commonwealth & States)
- Political and financial drivers at times of major system change (windows of opportunity)
- Programs for delivery (value and limits)
- Achievements and Problems



1b Historical Eras

- 1950s: Voluntary traditions (aged homes)
- 1960s: Community services and nursing homes
- 1970s: Nursing home expansion
- 1980s: Aged Care Reform Strategy
 - Home and Community Care Program
 - Residential Care Program
- Aged Care Act 1997 to Hogan 2004



1c What we have achieved (& not)

- Development of quality aged care with some individualised and carer support
- Rebalancing from residential towards more community care
- Focus on needs, rights, and more support
- But cost shifting acute, residential, and community (and Commonwealth and State)
- Is integration and coordination good enough?
- Are resources and workforce adequate?



2 Informing the Future

Making the most with the major aged care and health reforms

Moving beyond controlling, centralised programs (valuable in their day) towards regional management of consumer directed care



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2a What Older People Want (and boomers more so)

- Striving to 'be oneself' through later life
- Fierce will for independence (not a burden)
- Imperative for Ageing in Place
- Goals: feel well, health as a resource, and quality of life
- Quality of care for frail older people
 - Security, dignity, comfort, continuity



2b System Performance Issues

- Responsive to ageing changes (trajectories) and diversity
- ‘Upstream’ action (keep healthy) not only ‘downstream’ care, eg promote health & maintain independence
- Client centred delivery: continuity, integration, transitions, & timeliness for older people with multiple needs
- The value of ‘whole of government’ approaches delivered to each person appropriately (housing, health, income, etc)
- Overcome the fragmentation of program delivery across departments and levels of government.
- How can we organise the system better for the combined effects of policies and outcomes for individuals over time?



2c Directions: The Productivity Commission Review 2008

- Recommends consideration of 'unbundling' accommodation and care
- Notes the strong rise in consumer oriented care (consumer directed?)
- Simplify planning and allocation controls
- Major concern for the aged care workforce.



2d The National Health and Hospital Reform Commission 2010

Goals of consumer choice and responsiveness,
expenditure effectiveness, and equity

Fund the consumer not the provider

Separate accommodation and care and more
choice across residential and community

Allow bonds for high care



2e: A new playing field

- Commonwealth responsibility for all HACC funding in 2012 (as well as residential care).
- Commonwealth responsibility for primary care
- Commonwealth responsibility for hospitals (and/or how much with the states?)

Issues:

Are we on the way to a single funder and hence 'removing' the blame game?

Can the Commonwealth manage aged care?



3. Priority Issues for moving ahead



3a. 'Unbundle' Residential Care

- Accommodation subsidy on the basis of means tests (pay capital fully if have the resources)
- Care subsidies on the basis of need

More choice and independence for individuals and more resources for governments and those with low assets

It is not all about 'beds'!



3b Enable Independence

- Older People in the mainstream of health promotion (difficult advocacy but essential)
- Health promotion and self care in aged care and primary care (including chronic disease)
- Enable and regain independence in community care as well as rehabilitation
- The Home Independence Program Gill Lewin (Active Service Model in Victoria)



3d. Regional Management & Budgets

- Supply investments in priorities for local systems of care (re-configure over time)
- Accountability (communities & providers as well as funders)
- Leverage & flexibility: coordination & continuity
- More whole of government action
- More consumer empowerment?

How will it happen with Commonwealth aged care & Common-State Local Health Networks?



3f A New Aged Care System

- A New Aged Care Act Affirming Principles for Older Individuals, Carers, & Care Systems
- Strong Commonwealth Regional Management with active Boards of key stakeholders of consumers, providers, and funders
- Replace residential and community care programs with needs-based care funding across settings of care, and user-funded accommodation (with means-tested government support)
- Quality assurance on the basis of client vulnerability (not setting).
- Advocacy & coordination for o.p. in health, housing, etc programs
- Commonwealth needs-based resource allocation and ‘hands-off’ system oversight to regions (not detailed program specification)
 - And national innovations, workforce, evaluation, and applied research funding



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