

3 August 2010

Inquiry into Caring for Older Australians
Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

Business
Council of
Australia



Dear Commissioners

CARING FOR OLDER AUSTRALIANS – PC INQUIRY INTO AGED CARE SERVICES

The Business Council of Australia (BCA) represents the chief executives of over 100 of Australia's leading companies. Our vision is for Australia to be the best place in the world in which to live, learn, work and do business. The overriding objective is to enhance economic and social prosperity in Australia. As a result, our policy agenda includes health, education and employment policies as major determinants of wellbeing and enabling full participation in Australia's economy and society.

Having been involved in the ongoing debates about the need for and direction of health system changes, the BCA appreciates the interconnections between the health and aged sectors. Structural changes are needed within and between sectors to ensure service delivery models adapt effectively and equitably to changing demographics, disease patterns and consumer preferences. Those structural changes involve improving the performance of, and extending the markets for, health and aged services, creating new incentives for changed consumer and provider behaviour and building new capabilities to meet needs more effectively.

The BCA is therefore pleased to provide the attached submission to the current inquiry by the Productivity Commission into the needs of older Australians. The BCA strongly supports the commitment of the current Government to respond quickly to the Commission's recommendations.

We would be happy to elaborate further on our submission and we would also welcome the opportunity to discuss the inquiry and your emerging thinking. The appropriate contact within the BCA secretariat on these matters is Ruth Dunkin, Director Policy who can be contacted on 03 8664 2601 or via email at ruth.dunkin@bca.com.au.

The BCA looks forward to the PC's draft and final reports for this inquiry and the valuable contribution that this study will make to aged care reform in Australia.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katie Lahey'.

Katie Lahey
Chief Executive