

27 January 2021

Inspector-General of Aged Care Taskforce
MDP 411, GPO Box 9848
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Taskforce

National Seniors Australia, the peak body representing older Australians appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft Inspector-General of Aged Care Bill.

National Seniors supports the intent to create an Inspector-General of Aged Care, which was Recommendation 12 of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety final report.

We support the approach that has been proposed in the legislation as being consistent with the intent outlined in the Royal Commission final report.

Independent oversight of aged care system will be critical to ensure the system is operating effectively.

Our primary concern is that the operation of the Inspector-General is sufficiently independent. We note there is no reference to the process of appointing the Inspector-General and the staff supporting the Inspector-General within the draft legislation.

It is critical that the process to appoint the Inspector-General and the Inspector Generals' staff is sufficiently transparent and avoids any conflicts of interest, including any suggestions of appointments being made on political lines. As a body established to provide oversight over governance that may undertake activities that could be perceived as politically sensitive it is important a transparent process for appointment exists.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I. Henschke', written in a cursive style.

Ian Henschke
Chief Advocate

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