



Media Release

Retirees Welcome Release of Long-Awaited AGED CARE Legislation

“The introduction of the new **Aged Care Bill** to Parliament is welcomed by the Australian Independent Retirees (AIR)”, said Wayne Strandquist, Chief Advocate of the Australian Independent Retirees.

“The collaboration by the Government and the Coalition in progressing this important, long overdue **Aged Care legislation** is commendable”, said Wayne Strandquist.

“We know that retirees prefer to receive **aged care at home** where possible. AIR supports the additional focus on improving the quality and availability of aged care through the **Support at Home program** for those who choose to remain in their homes”, said Wayne Strandquist.

“The **expansion of this program** will need to be closely monitored to ensure the rollout of additional support and care is delivered with the required quality”, Wayne Strandquist added.

“AIR supports the principle of ‘**grand-fathering**’ when introducing significant changes to financial arrangements in retirement. We welcome this approach for those currently receiving aged care who will **continue** with their existing arrangements”, explained Wayne Strandquist.

“Unfortunately, there was very little time to consider the 574 pages of draft legislation before it was introduced to parliament by those who will be required to make the proposed co-contributions. **This could have enabled the potential consideration of alternate funding options** that might have been **fairer** than the approach taken in the Act”, said Wayne Strandquist.

“While there has been some public discussion on how aged care should be funded in Australia, there is no consensus. As with **intensive medical care**, only a **small percentage** of the older Australians will require **intensive residential aged care**,” said Wayne Strandquist.

“Self-funded retirees look forward to the **scrutiny** of the legislation by the **Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee** and to explore ways to address the significant burden of co-contributions by self-funded retirees set out in the new Aged Care Bill”, said Wayne Strandquist.

For further information or Media Comments, please contact:

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