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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 5 March 2024 8:47 AM
To: Aged Care Legislative Reform
Subject: Review of Aged Care Act
Attachments: RE: Review of Aged Care Act [SEC=OFFICIAL]; Re: Review of Aged Care Act [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Categories: ACTION REQUIRED

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Please consider my 'thoughts' re current Legislation and suggested revision re 'Aged Care Fees'.
Written by someone who has 'feelings' and a strong 'attachment' to our elderly citizens.

I appreciate the current 'system' is 'geared' towards supporting people to stay in their own home as long as it is feasible; however in the current 'system', people who for one reason or another living in an Aged Care Facility are in many cases significantly financially disadvantaged.

In my opinion, current Legislation leads to an outcome that is not fair nor equitable re means testing contributions across home and residential care. The most significant reason for this in my opinion is the Refundable Accommodation Deposit (RAD) paid upon entering the Aged Care Facility.

Under the Aged Care Act, in my opinion the RAD should be classified as a non assessable asset, to be consistent with the Centrelink classification of the pensioners home 'Principle Place Of Residence'.

I recognise Pensioners need to make a contribution towards their accommodation and every day living expenses, but not to the extent where the daily fee significantly exceeds the maximum daily Aged Care Pension. In my opinion the current system is akin to 'Financial Abuse', it is a 'Death Duty' by default.

My own personal experience in recently transferring my Mother from her own home into Aged Care has been 'painful', not just in a Financial way, but also in the process.

With regards to 'process', it appears to me the relevant Government Depts involved operate in 'Silos', in addition re Mum's case three Departments have been 'involved' Aged Care, Govt Services, Social Services !

Warmest Regards

[REDACTED]