

Subject: RE: Consultation on the new Aged Care Act - Italian Aged Care Inc/Villa Terenzio
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Dear Aged Care Reform Team,

I am writing to express our serious concerns regarding the consultation on the new Aged Care Act. While we understand the importance of updating legislation to meet evolving needs, the proposed time frame for introducing the legislation by July 1, 2024, is applying tremendous pressure on providers, exacerbating the challenges we already face.

Our organization, like many others in the aged care sector, are currently juggling an array of responsibilities, including meeting monthly, quarterly, and annual reporting requirements, all while operating with a depleted and fatigued workforce. The additional burden of complying with new legislation within such a tight timeframe is simply unsustainable and threatens to compromise the level of service we strive to provide.

Furthermore, the introduction of criminal penalties under the new act has raised serious concerns among our board members. Several of our board members, who serve voluntarily, have expressed their intention to resign, fearing the severe penalties and potential imprisonment that could result from non-compliance. This poses a significant risk to our organization's governance structure and adds further complexities to attracting new board members, given the associated risks to key personnel and directors.

In addition to the operational challenges posed by the proposed legislation, we are deeply concerned about the financial implications it will have on our organization. The anticipated increase in insurance costs for management liability is substantial. While we understand that insurers cannot cover penalties and fines, the expected 200% increase in management liability insurance premiums, as discussed in a recent meeting with our broker, is alarming and unsustainable for our organization.

We respectfully request a thorough review of Sections 120 and 121 of the act, particularly regarding penalty units and definitions. We believe that the inclusion of examples and the provision of government guides would greatly assist registered providers in understanding and implementing the legislation. This would not only ensure that providers can meet the government's expectations but also provide the necessary level of protection to directors and key decision-makers.

In conclusion, we urge you to consider the serious implications of the proposed legislation on aged care providers and take steps to address our concerns. We are committed to working collaboratively with the government to ensure that any changes to the aged care sector are implemented in a manner that prioritizes the well-being of older Australians while supporting the sustainability of aged care providers.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response and to engaging in further discussions on this important issue.

Regards,

Dean Dzukleski
Chief Executive Officer



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Italian Aged Care Incorporated - *Providing an excellent standard of care within a cultural and spiritual community through integrity, acknowledgement, compassion and commitment.*

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