

I can't believe this is allowed to happen in a country like Australia .We have home care packages available for a reason ,supposedly to help the elderly stay in their homes ,already there are so many exclusions ,despite people having the funding in their accounts .A big one for me is in a country like Australia ,with the high temperatures we experience we are not allowed to use our money to replace/purchase an air conditioner .

Already there are discrepancies in how different providers interpret these rules .

The new packages with all the changes in particular the capping on gardening /lawn mowing to 18 hours a year and cleaning to 52 hours a year ,is obviously a cost cutting measure and against the premise of the intent of our original packages .The effect this will have on people already suffering from complex health conditions which often leads to depression and anxiety is diabolical.For those of us particularly in rural areas we have to contend with snakes and ticks ,so these new rules are not to our advantage ,and if you have a pet will mean there is a greater chance of it getting bitten ,resulting in expensive vet fees that most people can't afford .If you live on your own ,or not well a pet gives lots of comfort and is renowned for helping control your blood pressure .

As for an hour a week to clean your house that is just ridiculous ,laughable actually ,particularly if you need a fridge cleaned out ,or a oven ,or if you need your sheets washed ,hung out and remade .A lot of people like us only have one set of sheets so this will lead to very unhygienic conditions .

I don't think the powers that be have considered the flow on effect of this bill in regard to the cost to the community as these new rules are going to result in more hospitalisations ,in particular falls as we are going to have to try and do things ourselves ,and the statistics on falls in the elderly speak for themselves .

Another thing to consider is that people who are at present supporting the elderly to stay at home ,that is the cleaners and lawn mowing companies are going to lose a lot of their work because pensioners already struggling with the high cost of living won't be able to pay for these services privately !

This is a cruel act pretending to be of benefit to the elderly when it is obvious it has been designed to save the government money and the fact they have done it so stealthily and a lot of people are still unaware of these changes speak for itself .I had a Tele health appointment at my small regional hospital recently the community nurse was totally unaware of the new rules as where our local doctors and yet these are the people who will be picking up the pieces in the aftermath of this new bill.

This is a cruel act targeting the very vulnerable people it is meant to help and I propose that there should be a vote of no confidence in Annika Wells for engineering these changes ,there has been no transparency and let's be frank it goes against all the rules of a democratic society ,this is Australia ,supposedly the lucky country !

This bill needs to be stopped ,there was no need for it in the first place and I hope someone is listening to all the voices that oppose it !