

1 October, 2024

I would seek to raise one particular issue for consideration.

The total cap of 70 hours per year (52 + 18) for personal assistance cleaning and home maintenance gardening.

In what way is such a provision exemplifying and honouring the aged care principles that are such a key part of the legislation, supposedly shaping the specifics of the Rules?

[Division 2 - Aged care principles p82 draft Aged Care Bill 2024.

‘...older individuals ...will be at the forefront of the new aged care system, with their needs responded to appropriately and their individual circumstances recognised and respected.’

Clause 25 Statement of Principles
subclauses (1), (2) and (3).

* safety, health, wellbeing and quality of life

* puts older people first

* support individuals to be able to reside at their home (if they choose)

Blanket annual ‘one size fits all’ caps so substantially limiting service provision hours completely fails to acknowledge individual needs and circumstances, the key to that ‘safety, health, wellbeing and quality of life’ so essential for a person to age in place at home.

The proscriptive restrictions on an individual older person’s care and support plan in this way before there is any opportunity for the exercise of choice by them and/or their care manager as to what is actually important and necessary in their particular assessed circumstances is not ‘person-centred care’.

Both Government and Department would surely not want to see the overall provision of Support At Home, such a major and welcome part of the implementation of the new Act and such an important part of the overall reform process, derailed by the widespread growing anger and distress emerging as older Australians and those who have care for them become aware of the inflexible constraints of the Rules caps in two key areas.

I would respectfully request that this decision be reconsidered, preferably resulting in the removal of caps altogether and instead ensuring, within the limits of available allocated funding as ACAT/ACAS assessed, as the Aged Care Act principles declare: 'older individuals...needs [will be] responded to appropriately and their individual circumstances recognised and respected.'

Yours faithfully

Dr John [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]