

**Submission via online portal:**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] not just a 'cleaner', [REDACTED] sweeps, vacuums and mops my floors, cleans the kitchen and bathroom and does kitchen washing up as needed, however there is so much more to it. [REDACTED] takes out my rubbish, helps move food deliveries from the front door to the kitchen and puts it away as she does with other deliveries. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] washes and hangs out my bedding and remakes the bed. [REDACTED] puts on a load of washing and hangs it inside as I can't go out and bring it in when dry. [REDACTED] will help clean my fridge and pantry for easy access if needed, and help sort clothes. [REDACTED] does many little tasks that are hard for me and is also greatly appreciated company. After every two hour shift she does I breathe a sigh of relief that I will be OK until the next one in a few days.

In the Aged Care Rules 2024 Consultation Draft it states there will be a capped limit of one hour a week (52 hours a year) for "General Household Cleaning", which is just incomprehensible. There is also a service for "Laundry Services" and "Shopping Assistance". Is 'domestic assistance' now going to be broken down into little blocks of time, over-reported and charged accordingly or just not provided at all? Unbelievable. And what about the Schads award where workers are only supposed to work in 2 hour blocks?

An hour a week or two hours a fortnight are simply not enough. I will be left once again unable to cope with washing of clothes, washing up, dust and dirt accumulation, dirty sheets, floors and clothes and many things I can't move to their destination, and rubbish I can't take out weekly to my bins, including colostomy rubbish. The thought is heartbreaking, that this situation could be somehow thought to be "care" and uphold the Charter of Aged Care Rights? Domestic support is what almost all recipients need most of all, and it is being taken away.

[REDACTED] with no additional income or assets and I will be paying 17.5% toward whatever is eventually decided for co-payments. I can't afford that, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Self Management, along with it's choices, is quietly being slipped under the carpet and that too is very distressing to me. My choice of workers, allied health and so on makes my life liveable, and retains my dignity, not to mention saving funds.

I pray some common sense is applied, we are not all "wealthy Boomers", so many of us are struggling on a daily basis in ways that simply are not being heard.

Domestic assistance "cleaning with all it's forms, can't be made the least important service when to so many it is the basis of retaining any possibility of independence and dignity.