

11 November 2020

Royal Commission Aged Care Quality and Safety

Email: ACRCfinalsubmissions@royalcommission.gov.au

Dear Madam/Sir,

Spinal Life Australia is a leading disability service provider supporting people with spinal cord injury, the late effects of polio, transverse myelitis and other spinal damage across Queensland and Western Australia.

Over the years since it was formed in 1960, Spinal Life has built up a skilled staff of over 850 providing a diverse range of services to our members/clients, many of whom are 65 or over.

We appreciate the opportunity to make a Submission to the Royal Commission Aged Care Quality and Safety and do so in the hope it can foster equitable and inclusive outcomes that are critical for people with physical disability across Australia.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Townend
Chief Executive Officer
Spinal Life Australia



Submission by Spinal Life Australia to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety

Nothing hurts a nation more than matters of inequity.

It is divisive - and Australians 65 and over with a disability are hurt by this particular inequity every day.

There is no reason why Australia cannot offer an equitable system to its people.

In this regard, we make two recommendations set out below.



Aged care for people with disability			
Recommendation 60	Equity for people with disability receiving aged care		
60.1.	By 1 July 2024, every aged care recipient with a disability or disabilities, regardless of when acquired, should receive through the aged care program daily living supports and outcomes (including assistive technologies, aids and equipment) equivalent to those that would be available under the National Disability Insurance Scheme to a person with the same or substantially similar conditions.	Support in principle	However, we would support moves to remove the current age limit for access to the NDIS as a simpler solution and is not discriminatory.
Recommendation 61	Annual reporting to Parliament by the Disability Discrimination Commissioner and the Age Discrimination Commissioner		
61.1.	By 1 July 2024, the Disability Discrimination Commissioner and the Age Discrimination Commissioner should be required, as part of the new National Disability Strategy, to report annually to the Parliament on the numbers of aged care recipients with disabilities who are 65 years old or older and their ability to access daily living supports and outcomes (including assistive technologies, aids and equipment) equivalent to those available under the National Disability Insurance Scheme.	Support in principle	as above

