

SENATE INQUIRY SUMMARY – SOME PRELIMINARY COMMENTS

Category		Recommendation	ACS Comment
A	Sector wide dialogue including all levels of Government.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Aged Care Forum (3.6) 2. Taskforce to act and implement 'Forum' outcomes (3.7) 	Important proposal for a new 'forum' structure reporting directly to the Minister. Very high priority for industry
B	'Joined Up' policy and entire system review. "An all Encompassing Review".	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. All encompassing review of Aged Care Act 1997. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine both residential and community care. • Provide projections to enable short and long term sector planning (3.8) 28. Take a client based approach (7.122) 	The 'all encompassing review' is a very high priority. Needs clearly defined outcomes and reporting timelines.
C	Properly determine real care costs. Monitor these costs over time. Better data and information.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Establish benchmark of care costs (3.24) 5. Publication of audited General Purpose Financial Reports (3.30) 6. Reports to show a clear and comparative understanding of provider performance (3.31) 7. Common indicators and definitions to enable comparative analysis (3.39) 8. Address deficiencies with information and data (3.44) 	High priority and linked to Category 'D' – financial state of the industry.
D	Financial state of industry – contradictory evidence. Review costs of providers in meeting compliance.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Undertake a 'stress test' to measure financial wellbeing (4.59) 10. Review costs and resources required to meet regulation and compliance measures (4.78) 11. Implement measures, including additional funding, to assist smaller providers meet compliance requirements (4.79) 	This is a high priority for industry.
E	Workforce levels and staff developments.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Review to consider professional nursing and other aged care staffing requirements (4.98) 13. Review staffing challenges, with a particular focus on rural and remote (4.113) 21. Need to attract culturally appropriate staff (6.72) 	Workforce development is a priority area. Other workforce initiatives are also needed
F	Capital Funding	<p>Conclusion at 4.127 " view that the aged care sector is facing difficulties with the level of funding that it receives." (4.127)</p> <p>"The Committee believes that the full ramifications of the implementation of bonds in high care are yet to be analysed and should be included in the recommended holistic review of flexible funding options for the sector. (7.80)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 26. DoHA analyse decoupling of residential care and accommodation. 	ACS very disappointed no specific recommendation re 'cost of constructing facilities'. Will however be considered in the 'all encompassing review'.

Category		Recommendation	ACCV Comment
G	Annual Indexation	<p>“The Committee considers on the balance of evidence before it, that the current indexation formula may no longer be appropriate.” (5.48)</p> <p>14. Review of the indexation formula used for the aged care sector (5.49) Consider independent mechanism to continually assess indexation formula (5.50).</p> <p>“The Committee strongly urges the Commonwealth to consider the continuation of the CAP while ... review is being undertaken.” (5.51)</p>	Very high priority for industry.
H	Special Support Needs	<p>15. Review specifically consider rural and remote issues and effectiveness of current supplement (6.40)</p> <p>16. Homecare services on Norfolk Island (6.43)</p> <p>17. Review to consider needs of persons from NESB background (6.48)</p> <p>18. Review implications of elderly homeless as a special needs category (6.60)</p> <p>19. Review consider needs of homeless and other disadvantaged (6.61)</p> <p>20. Review consider needs of indigenous Australians (6.71)</p>	High priority for industry.
I	User Payments and access to services and client needs.	<p>“The Committee recognizes that a thorough review of the ACFI is both timely and vital to establish its impact on the sector.” (7.34)</p> <p>22. Review the legislative requirement for reassessment of residents moving from low to high where facilities have different provider numbers; entering a facility with a low care approval but requiring high care (7.44)</p> <p>23. Launch an information campaign on recent reforms to ACAT (7.51)</p> <p>24. The role of the ACAT’s should be that of a single national entry point (7.60)</p> <p>25. National aged care education campaign (7.61)</p> <p>“The Committee recognizes the new and emerging challenges .. in meeting growing demand and increasingly diverse client needs”. (8.41)</p> <p>30 Taskforce undertake a review of the current planning ratio for community, high and low care.</p> <p>31. Taskforce review continuity of care as a potential long term solution</p>	Priority issues which need further development and consideration.
J	Funding	<p>“.. the Committee acknowledges that the funding and services for community care need to be expanded.” (7.111)</p> <p>27. Expand community aged care funding and services to meet growing demand (7.112)</p> <p>29 Review consider options to enable greater flexibility in regard to payments and services at providing a client centred aged care system (7.129)</p>	Priority issues which needs further development and consideration.