

Media Release

18th January 2019

Royal Commission an opportunity for Australia

Today marks the official start of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

Attending today's directions hearing, UnitingCare Australia welcomes the focus on creating a system of aged care for older Australians that provides quality, compassionate care and a safe environment. It is pleasing that the Commission is providing opportunities to gather opinions of people already in care including those outside the main cities.

The Uniting Church looks forward to contributing to a national conversation about the services that are needed to support an ageing population.

We are pleased that Royal Commission will take a long term perspective that will fully explore the issues that will come as the number of older people in our community grows. The Uniting Church and its service providers believe in finding positive ways of adjusting to social change that benefit all people throughout their lives. The right to be treated justly, accorded dignity and to have your basic rights protected applies to everyone, regardless of age, gender, cultural origin, sexuality or beliefs.

Claerwen Little, National Director of UnitingCare Australia, said that "we are approaching this Royal Commission as an opportunity to create stronger communities and to ensure that people have the greatest choice possible about where and how they approach their life as they age.

As a society, we cannot risk a future in which a whole class of people is removed from our community because of their age. If we do not change the way we do things, this may be the outcome."

ENDS

UnitingCare Australia is the national body for the network of Uniting Church community service organisations, one of the largest networks of providers of community services in Australia. Our network of aged care providers accounts for over 10 per cent of services delivered in residential facilities and in communities.

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