



Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety

23 June 2020

Dr Linda Mellors
Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer
C/- Ms Marion Cole
Senior Legal Counsel
Regis Aged Care

By email: [REDACTED]@regis.com.au

Dear Dr Mellors

Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety

The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety (**Royal Commission**) was established on 6 December 2018 by Letters Patent issued by the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia.¹ The Honourable Gaetano Tony Pagone QC and Ms Lynelle Briggs AO have been appointed as the Commissioners.

This letter seeks your assistance with the work of the Royal Commission.

Royal Commission Hearing

Members of staff of the Royal Commission are preparing for a public hearing which will address funding and financing structures and mechanisms for a high quality aged care system.

The public hearing was intended to be held in Melbourne from 27 April to 6 May 2020. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commissioners suspended all hearings and workshops for the time being, subject to ongoing review. We will be in contact with you once a date for this hearing has been confirmed; we may ask that you appear as a witness.

Request for a witness statement

We refer to your discussion with members of staff of the Royal Commission on 12 June 2020 and we request that you provide a witness statement in advance of the hearing. Attached to this letter is a series of questions we ask that you consider when preparing your witness statement.

We also attach a template that we ask you to use to prepare your witness statement.

We anticipate that your witness statement will be tendered during the hearing, and will be publically available through the Royal Commission's website. We would appreciate receiving your signed witness statement by **Friday 10 July 2020**. The Royal Commission is mindful of the current priorities on aged care providers in relation to its response to COVID-19 and does not wish to impede aged care providers from being able to fully focus on any response. If there are difficulties in complying with this timeframe, please get in contact with us.

We note that staff of the Royal Commission are developing draft propositions, which are draft proposals for improving funding and financing structures and mechanisms for a high quality aged care system. We expect that Counsel Assisting will seek to test those propositions with you at the hearing. A copy of these propositions may be provided to you in advance of the public hearing.

¹ The Letters Patent were amended on 13 September 2019.

Issue of a Notice to Produce

Please advise if you would prefer to provide your witness statement, once prepared, pursuant to a Notice to Produce issued under the *Royal Commissions Act 1902* (Cth). The *Royal Commissions Act 1902* (Cth) provides various privileges and protections to information or documents produced pursuant to such a Notice.

Assistance

Legal financial assistance is a grant to cover the reasonable costs of legal representation and disbursements relating to the provision of evidence to the Royal Commission. Legal Financial Assistance is provided by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department to eligible entities.

General information, including eligibility, is available at the [Attorney General's Department website](#). Further information can also be obtained by calling the Financial Assistance Section of the Attorney General's Department on 02 6141 4770 or 1800 117 995 or by emailing RCfinass@ag.gov.au.

Please contact Matthew Jorgensen on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]@royalcommission.gov.au if you have any questions about these processes.

Yours sincerely



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