MINUTE

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

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Office of the Minister
for FaHCSIA

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Due Date	18/07/2011	
Critical Date	N/A	
Consultation	Media	No
	Group Manager	Yes
	Deputy Secretary	No
	State Manager	No

To the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
For Decision

cc: Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers

Subject: Future policy directions for government responses for younger people in, or at risk of entering residential aged care

Purpose: To seek your agreement to the proposed approach for the future policy directions for the Younger People in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC) initiative and to a high level Action Plan.

Issue: At the December 2010 Community and Disability Services Ministers' Conference (CDSMC), Ministers affirmed their continued commitment to delivering appropriate accommodation options for younger people with disability. Ministers also agreed to maintain their efforts and to consider options beyond the current initiative, including new performance targets. Ministers have also asked officials to develop an Action Plan to progress future policy directions to achieve better pathways for younger people in residential aged care in conjunction with other mainstream service systems (19 April 2011 CDSMC) (refer **additional information** for key CDSMC decisions and actions arising).

While the proposal and draft Disability, Policy and Research Working Group paper was provided to your Office on 21 June, and discussed with the Parliamentary Secretary, we are now seeking your formal agreement to the approach as well as the draft high level Action Plan. Ministerial endorsement will strengthen the department's position and provide an enhanced mandate to progress its ongoing discussions with state and territory governments. The proposed approach is at **Attachment A** and an outline of the Action Plan proposing Commonwealth areas of action is at **Attachment B**. The Action Plan includes a requirement that state and territory governments develop jurisdiction specific Action Plans.

The department proposes to seek jurisdictional agreement to move from a single programmatic response to a broader strategy to achieve better outcomes for younger people in, or at risk of entering, residential aged care. This is consistent with the National Disability Strategy and also recognises that many young people who enter residential aged care do so because of lack of discharge options following acute and rehabilitative care. In addition, the department has consulted with representatives of the Young People in Nursing Homes National Alliance on ways to operationalise the recommendations in their report *YPIRAC: the next steps*.

The department has discussed the proposed approach with state and territory officials (DPRWG on 30 June). The initial reaction from officials is to revisit the paper following Council of Australian Government (COAG) consideration of Health Reforms at their next meeting. The delay in COAG consideration of the Health Reforms may have a cascade effect on efforts to progress work on achieving better accommodation pathways for younger people with disability.

Sensitivities:
Delay in achieving agreement to the proposed approach at officials level is expected to impact on the development of an agreed position to be considered by Ministers. Should the department be unable to reach agreement with states and territories, a Commonwealth-only sponsored paper could be submitted to CDSMAC for consideration. However, given a large degree of responsibility for implementation of reforms rests with states and territories, an approach sponsored only by the Commonwealth may be contentious.

Next Steps
The progression of this work is reliant on combined efforts from Commonwealth, state and territory governments. The department will continue discussions with states and territories through the DPRWG and CDSMAC with the objective of taking an agreed position to the Standing Council on Community, Housing and Disability Services to deliver proposed future options.

The department is also pursuing other means to ensure that the issue of younger people in, or at risk of entering residential aged care, remains prominent on the policy agenda in its dealings with other state and territory governments. For example, the department has highlighted this issue in its discussions with the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) and state and territory governments about developing a National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Transitioning Responsibilities for Aged Care and Disability Services arising from the National Health and Hospitals Network Agreement. As we have advised, inclusion of specific clauses relating to younger people in, or at risk of entering residential aged care through the main body of the NPA is not likely at this stage.

However, DoHA have indicated support for addressing younger people in, or at risk of entering residential aged care as part of the work plan being developed for the NPA. For example, there are opportunities to explore the role of the Home and Community Care program in preventing entry to residential aged care. A separate minute provides more information on the NPA (see **MN11-001624).**

DoHA have also indicated support for addressing the additional costs of younger people in residential aged care, such as aids and equipment, into the additional work on "cross-billing" arrangements between Commonwealth, state and territory governments to be undertaken in 2012-13. This approach provides an opportunity to address your concerns that the cross billing arrangements create inappropriate incentives for state and territory governments to place younger people into residential aged care, as residential aged care may be seen as a less costly option compared to building and running their own facilities.

Schedule C, Part A of the NPA on Transitioning Responsibilities for Aged Care and Disability Services commits the Commonwealth to facilitate the continued delivery of residential aged care services to younger people. Notwithstanding this, we believe that the Commonwealth can use continued access to residential aged care to leverage genuine commitment by state and territory governments to Action Plans and individual plans as outlined in **Attachment A**.

In addition, the department will seek to ensure performance indicators for younger people in, and at risk of entering, residential aged care are considered as part of the review of the National Disability Agreement performance framework. Separate briefing will be provided on this review, which follows the COAG decision (February 2011) that performance frameworks for all National Agreements should be reviewed.

Recommendation:
That you:

1. Agree to the proposed approach for future policy directions at **Attachment A**. — Agreed / Not Agreed
2. Agree departmental officials pursue the draft high level Action Plan with state and territory officials (**Attachment B**). — Agreed / Not Agreed
3. Note that you will be briefed on progress prior to the next CDSMAC meeting. — Noted / Please Discuss

IN CONFIDENCE

s.47F - personal privacy

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Date: 11/7/11

Comments (MO use)

s.22 - irrelevant information

Signature: .....

Date: 4-8-11

ADVISER TO ACTION:

Local Member Advised	**State Member Advised**
Yes / No	Yes / No
Name of Member	Name of Member

Rating	**Quality**	**Timeliness**
Unsatisfactory		
Satisfactory		
Good		

Additional Information

Key Community and Disability Services Ministers' Decisions

16 Dec 2010 – Ministers:

- Agreed to maintain the National Disability Agreement performance Benchmark D previously agreed by Ministers [an increase in the proportion of younger people in, or at risk of entering, residential aged care assisted with more appropriate forms of accommodation, diversionary strategies and/or enhanced services];
- Agreed that officials develop by March 2011, for Ministers to consider out of session, recommended jurisdiction based performance targets reflecting the commitment in recommendation (1) against the key objectives of the Young People in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC) initiative for the five years from 2011-12. Any new targets identified would be pending outcomes of COAG deliberations on national health reforms and will come back to the next CDSMC;
- Noted that Ministers agreed in June 2010 that the Future of YPIRAC sub-committee of the Disability Policy and Research Working Group would report to the next Ministers' meeting with possible future options for government responses for younger people in, or at risk of entering, residential aged care.
- Agreed that officials develop by March 2011, for Ministers to consider out of session, options to improve support to younger people with high intensity needs, with these options to draw on and incorporate:
    - the report currently being prepared by the Young People in Nursing Homes Alliance;
    - more coordinated partnership approaches between the disability, health, ageing and housing sectors; and.
    - the role of the National Disability Strategy and the national health and hospitals network reforms in progressing more integrated services between the disability, health, ageing and housing sectors, noting the importance of support from relevant portfolio Ministers.

19 April 2011 – Ministers agreed that Officials, as a matter of priority:

- Develop an action plan to progress future policy directions to achieve better pathways for younger people in residential aged care in conjunction with other mainstream service systems.

ATTACHMENT A

s.47C - deliberative processes

ATTACHMENT A

s.47C - deliberative processes

ATTACHMENT B

s.47C - deliberative processes

DRA

s.22 - irrelevant information