



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

HEALTH STRATEGY AND NETWORKS

Our ref: F-AA-01063/04
Enquiries to: Nicole Deprazer
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Community Development and Justice Standing Committee
Email: lacdjsc@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Community Development and Justice Standing Committee

Re: Inquiry into Policy Implications of an Ageing Community

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment into the Inquiry into Policy Implications of an Ageing Community.

The Falls Prevention Health Network, which is a part of Health Strategy and Networks in the Department of Health WA, has recently revised the Falls Prevention Model of Care (www.healthnetworks.health.wa.gov.au/modelsofcare/docs/Falls_Model_of_Care.pdf). The Model of Care provides a vision for the future of falls prevention in WA and articulates a best practice approach to reduce falls risk, fall incidents, and falls-related injuries.

As you may be aware, falls are the leading cause of deaths from injury for people aged 65 and over and one in three people aged 65 and over living in the community fall each year. Therefore, falls are clearly an issue of importance for our ageing community.

I was pleased to note that the Seniors Strategic Planning Framework 2012-2017 (www.communities.wa.gov.au/Documents/Seniors/Seniors%20Strategic%20Framework%20V3.pdf) currently makes reference to a number of other key Department of Health models of care and frameworks. However I believe this could be further strengthened by making reference to the Falls Prevention Model of Care.

The Falls Prevention Model of Care outlines 17 key recommendations which can provide further guidance on key strategies that may be of relevance to highlight in the Seniors Strategic Planning Framework 2012-2017. You may wish to refer to the Model of Care for further strategies that can be incorporated into the Planning Framework.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter

Yours sincerely

Dr Nicholas Waldron

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Falls Prevention Health Network

30 June 2014