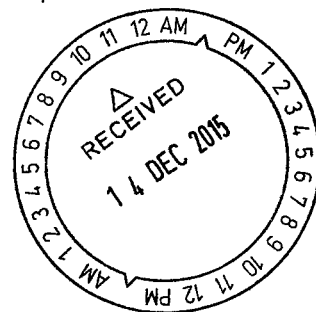


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SWAN COMMUNITY  
CARE SERVICES INC.  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Your Ref: Petition No. 102

Hon Simon O'Brien  
Chairman  
Standing Committee on Environment & Public Affairs  
Parliament House  
Perth 6000

Dear Mr. O'Brien

**Subject: Petition No. 102 – Related to Aged Care Facilities in the City of Swan**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission regarding the issues we raised in the petition that was tabled on our behalf in the Legislative Council on 24 November 2015, by the Hon Alanna Clohesy MLC.

Research conducted by the City of Swan Community Care Services Advisory Committee Inc, which has been confirmed in a major study commissioned by the City of Swan, clearly shows that there is an urgent need for new and additional aged care places in this region.

By way of introduction, the City of Swan Community Care Services Advisory Committee was established some 32 years ago, and is a not for profit organisation who, through our 80 plus volunteer members, in cooperation with City of Swan, provide a range of services that are designed to assist aged and frail aged people, and younger people with disabilities, with transport needs, specialist care services and with assistance to age 'in place' where possible.

One of the principle objects of our constitution requires our committee to *make representations to the City of Swan, State and Commonwealth Governments and any other institutions or organisations to achieve the Committee's overall objectives* – hence the reason for our Petition to the Legislative Council on this occasion.

From the results of the research we and the City of Swan have undertaken, we have established that there are currently seven (7) residential aged care facilities in the City of Swan with a total of 587 places. Our research shows that all of those places are currently full and that there are clients registered at each of those facilities waiting for beds to become available. Our research also revealed that many of the people currently occupying some of those 587 beds were not original residents of the City of Swan, but that they were forced to seek-out beds in this region because all of the care facilities where they lived were also full to capacity.

The 587 aged care places available in the City of Swan are not sufficient to meet the needs of the current population which stands at approximately 112,000. With the population predicted to double in the City of Swan to 230,000 by the year 2031, it has been estimated that a further 1, 050 new beds will be needed in that locality (by that year) to keep pace with demand. *We ask that you note that there are currently no firm plans to build new residential care facilities in the City of Swan at this time.*

The ABS projections show that as of today there are 420,000 people in Australia over the age of 85 years. By 2031 that number will increase to 843,000. By 2045 there will be 1.7 million people in Australia will be over the age of 85 years. Currently there are 4,400 people aged 100 or over living in Australia and by 2050 that number will have increased to 40,000.

As indicated above, a percentage of our ageing population will be residing in the City of Swan, hence the urgent need for new and additional residential aged care places.

As outlined in our petition, we (the petitioners) are calling on the State Government to work with the "Aged Care Sector" to allow them the opportunity to inspect the now de-commissioned Swan Districts Hospital site to determine if it would be (1) commercially viable for them to purchase part of the site, and (2) to then covert the existing buildings on that part, to create a much needed 'social dividend' for the community in the form of a new regional aged care facility with places for up to 200 residents.

In addition to working with the Aged Care Providers in relation to the hospital site, we are also calling on the State Government to consider offering them 'incentives' that may assist them in creating this much needed community facility.

If the proposal put forward by our Committee can be realised, then it will give the Aged Care Sector (generally) more time to work with all three tiers of Government in identifying other parcels of land where new such-like-facilities can be built in this region to meet the ongoing needs of our ageing population.

In closing we urge the State Government to actively engage with the Aged Care Providers with a view to achieving the outcome we have proposed. If this can be achieved it will create the additional aged care places that are so badly needed in the City of Swan and within the greater East Metropolitan Region more generally at this time.

Yours sincerely

Ron Carey APM  
President

9 December 2015