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Hon Mark Butler MP
Minister for Health and Aged Care
Email: Minister.Butler@health.gov.au

17 October 2024

Dear Minister Butler

RE: Aged Care Workforce

The Quality Aged Care Action Group Inc. (QACAG) is a grassroots activist group. Our membership includes individuals who have experience of aged care and organisational allies. We are also an organisational member of the NSW Aged Care Roundtable.

At our recent Annual General Meeting concerns were raised regarding the aged care workforce, particularly the need for growth, worker registration and training. Whilst we commend the work of this government in addressing registered nurse availability, direct care minutes and wage increases there is still more to do to secure a sustainable and appropriate workforce.

We were able to participate in the work of Prof. John Pollaers OAM and the Aged Care Workforce Strategy Taskforce and note some progress towards meeting the 14 strategic actions arising from that review. Although this work was completed in 2018, we also note the webpage identifies it was last reviewed in February this year indicating there is due regard still being given to this work by the department of health and aged care.

The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety is quickly disappearing from people's minds, but the poor care experienced by many residents, and poor working conditions for employees continue to be of concern to our members who live the reality of aged care daily, either as workers, or users of aged care services.

We urge you to build on the good work so far and consider reinvigorating the 2018 Taskforce work, implementing a plan for change that brings greater capacity for workers to deliver safe quality care beyond direct care minutes as a matter of priority.

Kind regards

Margaret Zanghi

Margaret Zanghi
President, QACAG Inc.

cc. Minister Anika Wells.