

MEDIA RELEASE

Date: Wednesday 10 October 2018

Royal Commission into Aged Care

Seniors Rights Service, Sydney Australia

The Seniors Rights Service (SRS) acknowledges and welcomes the appointment of Justice Joseph McGrath and Lynelle Briggs as heads of the Royal Commission into Aged Care. Media attention (eg Four Corners) has recently focussed on the sad experiences of many of our aged in institutional care-with inadequate medical or living services and the Royal Commission is an important step in ameliorating their positions.

Seniors Rights Service provides free, confidential advocacy, advice, education and legal services to older people in New South Wales. Our clients are often abused by their families, forgotten in residential care or just older people without the support that our elderly should enjoy. We offer them the dignity and respect that everyone Australian deserves, but which is often not offered to our older citizens.

SRS fields over 800 calls a day and engages every year with over 27,000 elderly citizens. Their calls range from information about their struggles with the impenetrable documentation for entering a retirement village or help with their estate arrangements to complex family matters where a mum or dad is being sadly abused by their families. And we do this for free. We are reliant on government grants to further our work but additional protections for the elderly and funding are required.

We therefore applaud the establishment of the Royal Commission and hope that, as much as some of the testimony will be challenging, it brings much needed sunlight to the difficulties experienced by our elderly citizens in negotiating the complexities of legal documentation, financial and familial arrangements.

More details regarding Seniors Rights Service can be found at: seniorsrightsservice.org.au

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