



13 August 2021

The Hon. Scott Morrison MP  
Prime Minister  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Via email: [PMinvites@pmc.gov.au](mailto:PMinvites@pmc.gov.au)

Dear Prime Minister,

### **Aged Care Reform**

I am writing on behalf of more than 300,000 members, comprising nurses, midwives and care-workers, of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) to seek your commitment on five areas, which are urgently needed for aged care reform, but which remain unaddressed by your government.

As you are of course aware, the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety's Final Report (the Report) made 148 recommendations for wide scale reform of the aged care system, following its shocking discovery of widespread neglect and systemic failings across the sector. Central to the Report's recommendations for guaranteeing safety and quality for all elderly Australians was its recognition that the aged care workforce is the most important part of the system. And further, that while there are many ingredients needed to ensure safe, quality care, it will not be achieved across the sector without having enough staff with the skills and time to care. The ANMF acknowledges that your government has responded to the Report and has committed to implementing a number of its recommendations. However, we are concerned that five areas which are critical to guaranteeing safety and quality across the sector have been either ignored or not accepted in full by your government.

The consequence of the failure to address these areas is that too many elderly Australians will continue to needlessly suffer and the workforce endeavouring to care for them will continue to feel abandoned and undervalued, and exhausted beyond redemption, will be forced to leave the sector. Our members report that despite the government's promise of wide scale aged care reform there has been little or no alleviation of the fundamental staffing crisis across the sector and that many of them feel they can no longer endure the lack of respect afforded to them and those in their care.

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W [www.anmf.org.au](http://www.anmf.org.au)

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#### **ANMF Journals**

Australian Nursing and  
Midwifery Journal (ANMJ)

E [anmjadmin@anmf.org.au](mailto:anmjadmin@anmf.org.au)

W [www.anmj.org.au](http://www.anmj.org.au)

Australian Journal of  
Advanced Nursing (AJAN)

E [ajan@anmf.org.au](mailto:ajan@anmf.org.au)

W [www.ajan.com.au](http://www.ajan.com.au)

ABN 41 816 898 298



We therefore seek your urgent response to the following five issues critical for ensuring safety and quality across aged care:

1. Registered nurse presence, on-site, at every nursing home across Australia 24 hours per day, that is across all shifts – day, evening and night shifts.
2. Immediate implementation, that is 1 July 2022, of a minimum staff time standard for at least 200 minutes of care per resident per day for the average resident, with at least 40 minutes of that staff time provided by a registered nurse
3. An uplift in legislated minimum care hours to at least 215 minutes of care per resident per day for the average resident, with at least 44 minutes of that staff time provided by a registered nurse from 1 July 2023.
4. Legislated transparency and accountability measures for use of taxpayers' funding which guarantee that funding is tied directly to care provision and staffing levels.
5. Wage increases and improvements in conditions for the aged care workforce, commencing with support and a commitment to fund the 25% wage increase being sought in the current work value case before the Fair Work Commission.

The ANMF is writing to all political parties and independent politicians to seek their commitment on the issues outlined above. We will be discussing responses received at the ANMF's upcoming Federal Council meeting, 27 August 2021, and will then be sharing this information with members across the country at the ANMF's National Biennial Conference, 15 October 2021.

We therefore ask you to complete the attached response form and return it to the ANMF, via [fedsec@anmf.org.au](mailto:fedsec@anmf.org.au) as a matter of urgency and at the latest by 26 August, 2021.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the issues raised above. We look forward to your response. If you require any further information or have any questions regarding the matters raised in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact ANMF Political Director, Sue Bellino, at [sbellino@anmf.org.au](mailto:sbellino@anmf.org.au) or M: 0400 188 825.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Annie Butler', written over a faint circular stamp.

Annie Butler  
Federal Secretary

Enc.

cc. Hon Greg Hunt MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care  
Hon Richard Colbeck, Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care

# AGED CARE REFORM

## **Response Form - Commitment to five issues critical for ensuring safety and quality across aged care**

|   |                                     |                             |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Political party/politician name:</b>   |                                     |                             |
| <b>Urgent issue required for aged care reform</b>   | <b>Please indicate your support</b> |                             |
| Registered nurse on site 24 hours/day   | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>        | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Immediate implementation, 1 July 2022, of legislated minimum care hours                       | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>        | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| An uplift in legislated minimum care hours by 1 July 2023                                     | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>        | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Legislated transparency and accountability measures   | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>        | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 25% wage increase for all nurses and care-workers in aged care and improvements in conditions | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>        | No <input type="checkbox"/> |



Australian  
Nursing &  
Midwifery  
Federation