

Staying in Portarlington (SiP) – Port Report February 2019

Royal Commission into Aged Care

Most probably you have heard that the Australian Government has set up a Royal Commission into Safety and Quality in Aged Care.

This is a huge step forward, after years of criticism and community concern, and a lot of media coverage of the inadequate current system.

Now underway, the Commission must submit an interim report by October 31, with its final report and recommendations due by April 30 next year.

More than 5000 individual people and organisations made submissions on terms of reference, which shows you how widespread are the concerns about the aged care system in our Australian communities.

As a result, the Commission's role is broad, and covers these vital issues:

- aged care quality, the important needs currently not being met, & extent of sub-standard care
- how best to deliver aged care services to people with dementia and/or disabilities, including young people
- the future challenges in ensuring home care services (in regional communities too) that are accessible, affordable and high quality
- what the Australian government, aged care industry, families and the wider community can do to strengthen a high quality and safe system of aged care service
- how to ensure person-centered services, that allow for choice, control and independence of those receiving services, and assist and encourage the involvement of families and their carers
- how to sustain the system with innovative models of care, technology, workforce and capital investments

We encourage you to make a submission to the Royal Commission, especially if you would like to see a future where there is:

- adequate government funding for good quality home care services, so that staying in your home as you age is a realistic choice for you
- high standard residential facilities for those who have greater care needs

You can make a submission until mid this year, in one of these ways:

- on line <https://agedcare.royalcommission.gov.au>
- by mail to Royal Commission into Safety and Quality in Aged Care: GPO Box 1151 Adelaide 5001
- by telephone 1800 960 711

SiP's annual January book stall

We would like to thank the Lions Club Sunday Market, Bellarine Bayside and CoGG for our location in the Bayview Room, the many book and DVD donors and buyers across all genres, and the weather for making SiP's annual bargain book sale a great success with the record amount of \$1300 raised!

The money will be used to subsidise SiP's program of events for older residents throughout 2019, in developing Portarlington as an age friendly community for people of all ages – and it will especially help us to reduce the cost of our annual seniors' bus trip during Geelong's Seniors' Week in October.

It was great to see young families sorting through the very generous donations of children's books, selecting 5 books for \$2 for end of holiday and back-to-school reading. Special thanks go to Brian Sneddon from Queenscliff, and his family, for their wonderful contribution. We will also be offering books to Port Primary School and to the kindergarten.

Contributing to the ongoing campaign to reduce plastic in our fragile coastal community, all buyers were invited to take a complimentary reusable shopping bag. These bags - designed by students from our Primary School - were purchased in bulk by SiP several years ago and we continue to make them available to other local organisations and residents.

To find out more about SiP, or to ask questions – check out our website www.stayinginportarlington.com, email stayinginportarlington@gmail.com, write to us: PO Box 394 Portarlington 3223, or phone secretary Chris on 0438 404 867.

Jenny Wills - President