

Aging (Issues) **to** Australian H of Reps, Standing Committee on Aging

2002.6. Issues on Aging

Submitted 31 August 2002 to the Standing Committee on Aging, House of Representatives, Parliament of Australia.

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To Standing Committee on Ageing, House of Representatives . . .we made the following points:

- As people age they should be supported and encouraged to remain living within the wider community, rather be congregated in retirement villages or “homes” for the elderly.
- Domestic and public buildings should automatically include design features suitable for all ages and degrees of mobility, e.g step height, mandatory railings, door widths.
- Labour regulations should be modified to permit older members of the community who wish to continue in paid employment to do so.
- There should be education campaigns that draw attention to the wastage of experience and skills that arise from retirement age limitations.
- People, while fit and well, should be encouraged to prepare an “advanced directive” which make clear the limits to medical treatment they desire if their health deteriorates.
- We strongly endorse the proposition that voluntary euthanasia or assisted suicide should be available for those who request such an option.