

Ageing and Disability Commissioner to be established in NSW

Hindus are most affected due to ageing as existing facilities, historically, have been catering to Australians of white christian background. The establishment of a Commissioner is therefore a good news for ageing Hindus or those suffering from disability.

NSW Government announcement about the establishment from 1 July 2019 of an Ageing and Disability Commissioner.

The Commissioner will be a new, statutory authority that will strengthen Government's ability to respond to abuse, neglect and exploitation of people with disability and the elderly in home and community settings. Its key functions will include:

- Receiving, triaging and investigating allegations of abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- Providing support to vulnerable adults and their families/carers during and following an investigation.
- Reporting and making recommendations to Government on systemic issues related to the abuse, neglect and exploitation of adults with disability and older people.
- Raising community awareness about abuse, neglect and exploitation of vulnerable adults - including how to prevent, identify and respond to matters.
- Administering the Official Community Visitors program in relation to disability services and assisted boarding houses.

The focus of the Commissioner will be preventing abuse, neglect and exploitation in home and community settings. This is distinct from the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commissioner and Aged Care Commission, which are responsible for safeguarding people receiving NDIS and aged care services.

The establishment of the Commissioner will be responsive to a number of reviews and inquiries which have highlighted the need for a new Public Advocate type body, to better respond to abuse, neglect and exploitation. For example, the Ombudsman's recent Special Report on abuse of vulnerable adults, the Law Reform Commission's Review of the Guardianship Act, the Parliamentary Inquiry into Elder Abuse and the Implementation of the NDIS in NSW inquiry. The name Ageing and Disability Commissioner has been chosen to speak more clearly to the community about its functions, and reflect its regulatory role.

Further information, including a Fact Sheet, is available on the Department of Family and Community Services website.

It would be appreciated if you could assist in promoting the establishment of the Commissioner by circulating this [fact sheet](#) within your networks.

Further information on the establishment of the Commissioner will be made available on the

Family and Community Services website as it becomes available. Thank you for support of this important initiative.

Regards,
Paul O'Reilly
Executive Director, Inclusion and Early Intervention

For more information please visit
www.facs.nsw.gov.au or call (02) 9377 6000

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FACT SHEET

Ageing-and-Disability-Fact-Sheet

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