



31 March 2023

Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Via email: [community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Senators

**Inspector-General of Aged Care Bill 2023 [Provisions] and the Inspector-General of Aged Care (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2023 [Provisions]**

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) is Australia's largest national union and professional nursing and midwifery organisation. In collaboration with the ANMF's eight state and territory branches, we represent the professional, industrial and political interests of more than 320,000 nurses, midwives and carers across the country.

Our members work in the public and private health, aged care and disability sectors across a wide variety of urban, rural and remote locations. We work with them to improve their ability to deliver safe and best practice care in each and every one of these settings, fulfil their professional goals and achieve a healthy work/life balance.

Our strong and growing membership and integrated role as both a professional and industrial organisation provide us with a complete understanding of all aspects of the nursing and midwifery professions and see us uniquely placed to defend and advance our professions.

Through our work with members we aim to strengthen the contribution of nursing and midwifery to improving Australia's health and aged care systems, and the health of our national and global communities.

With regard to care of older people, ANMF members work across all settings in which aged care is delivered, including over 45,000 members who are currently employed directly in the aged care sector. Many more of our members are involved in the provision of health care for older persons who move across sectors

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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



(acute, residential, community and in-home care), depending on their health needs. Being at the forefront of aged care, and caring for older people over the twenty-four hour period in acute care, residential facilities and the community, our members are in a prime position to make clear recommendations to improve the care provided and enhance processes for access to that care.

The ANMF welcomes the opportunity to provide a response to the Inspector-General of Aged Care Bill 2023 and the Inspector-General of Aged Care (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2023.

The ANMF supports in principle the intention of the Bills to form the role of the Inspector-General and ensure the role remains independent, enabling systemic reviews of aged care delivery. However, the ANMF is gravely concerned that the legislation does not require the Inspector-General position or the office of the Inspector-General to have clinical expertise and experience. An evidence based clinical lens, which underpins all decisions made in relation to the role and function of the Inspector-General, is essential to guarantee safe quality care provision. To omit the expertise of health practitioners within the office of the Inspector-General, or indeed themselves and on its advisory committees whether by oversight or design risks continuing the failures of the current system to ensure consumers have access to health care as required.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Julie Reeves, Strategic Lead - Aged Care, [jreeves@anmf.org.au](mailto:jreeves@anmf.org.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Annie Butler', written in a cursive style.

Annie Butler  
Federal Secretary