Media Release

31st of July 2020

The submission from Parkinson’s Australia into the Royal Commission for Aged Care Quality and Safety

**Parkinson’s Australia aims to promote the best possible quality of life for people with Parkinson’s. Today, we call for specialist training of workers in the aged care facilities, improved access to specialist care and innovative models to insure people with Parkinson’s live as well as possible. COVID-19 has proved the importance of technology and helping our community connect with their health professional to provide long-term health benefits.**

Approximately 80,000 people with Parkinson’s are using the aged care system either through home support or in a residential aged care facility. People living with Parkinson’s make up 8 per cent of the total compared to the general over 65 person who makes up only 1 per cent.

We need innovative care models that put the customer’s needs first. Covid-19 has shown that the current workforce policies in the aged care sector are not suitable for looking after older Australian’s. The deskilling of staff and casualisation of the workforce has led to the caring role being undervalued. These carers simply are not supported and trained to meet the needs of people with Parkinson’s.

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| ‘My dad doesn’t have tremor. As nurses and care providers are undereducated about Parkinson’s disease and variations of the disease, they assume he has Alzheimer’s disease or Dementia. They don’t ensure that his medication is given at the exact time every time to avoid “OFF” times’. |

Despite the Federal Government’s Budgetary woes, improving Aged Care must be a priority. We need more Home Care packages, better staffing ratios, access to healthcare services and innovative consumer led models.

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