



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Select Committee on Social Policy

Submission cover sheet

Inquiry into Petition 017-25 and E-Petition 005-25: Closure of Burrangiri Aged Care Respite Centre in Rivett

Submission number: 14

Submitter: Name withheld

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Submission to the ACT Government Inquiry into Burrangiri Aged Care Respite Centre.

- **the ACT is facing a supply and demand crisis in terms of the provision of respite care for the aged.**
- **in this situation it make no sense to wilfully diminish the supply while the demand is increasing.**
- at age 87 I am the primary carer for my wife of more than 60 years, aged 84 years and suffering from Alzheimer's Disease.
- we are fortunate that we receive a Home Care Package Level 3.
- we wish to remain in our home for as long as this is practical. To do so respite care will be essential.
- we have visited the Carer's ACT cottages in Isaacs and Deakin, and the Burrangiri Respite Centre.
- however, ike many other couples, we have so far been unable to identify opportunities for respite care.
- the proposed closure of Burrangiri would merely exacerbate the problem faced by carers and their loved ones.
- on our visit to Burrangiri we were impressed by the light, bright and airy environment, by the attitude of the staff whom we met and by the evident contentment of the residents.
- we have noted that, contrary to the Health Directorate's Asset Management Plan, Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith has asserted that Burrangiri is '*not fit for purpose*'.
- **if there are perceived short-comings in the facility we suggest that they be critically and independently evaluated**, and the costs and timeline for rectification compared with the cost and timeline of replacing the facility.
- Burrangiri is greatly valued by the community, as evidenced by a petition to the ACT Legislature which has been signed by more than 1500 individuals.
- we note that, notwithstanding her expressed concerns about the facility, the Minister deems it fit for alternative uses.
- what other community cohort, we wonder, has a greater need for care than the aged in our population.
- **finally, we are perplexed by the Minister's apparently unwavering determination to close Burrangiri, the largest provider of aged care respite in the ACT, meeting an important need and unable to be replaced in the short term.**

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