



Media Release

RETIRES SEEK CLEAR AND ENFORCEABLE AGED CARE PRICING BENCHMARKS

The Australian Independent Retirees (AIR) submissions to the Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority (IHACPA) seek clear and enforceable pricing benchmarks for aged care services.

“Without clear and enforceable pricing benchmarks, retirees are vulnerable to excessive or opaque charges for aged care services,” said AIR Chief Advocate Wayne Strandquist.

“Older Australians, particularly fully and partly self-funded retirees, face escalating costs for in-home care, with many reporting higher hourly rates, reduced service hours and administrative charges that are difficult to understand or justify,” Mr Strandquist explained.

“Many retirees are bypassing the regulated in-home care system and engaging services privately,” said Mr Strandquist. “This trend could ultimately lead to the creation of a two-tier pricing system that exposes retirees to unregulated providers and potential exploitation,” Mr Strandquist warned.

Mr Strandquist also highlighted concerns for Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders, who often have modest incomes and, with rising out-of-pocket costs, may ultimately exhaust their retirement savings. AIR has called for targeted pricing adjustments or supplements to ensure this group is not disadvantaged.

“Aged care reform must not come at the expense of older Australians who have saved for their retirement,” said Mr Strandquist. “AIR will continue to work with the IHACPA and the Government to ensure the pricing for in-home and residential aged care services is fair, transparent and aligned with the needs of older Australians,” Mr Strandquist concluded.

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