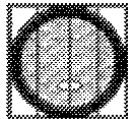


# N N A A M I

*The National Network of Adult and  
Adolescent Children who have a  
Mentally ill parent/s. Inc.*



Senator Jacinta Collins  
Minister for Mental Health and Ageing  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Fax (03) 9890 7122

18 July 2013

Parliament House

## **EACH and EACH D and other Aged Care packages Failing Older Australians Sentencing Elderly People to Institutions**

Dear Ms Jacinta Collins,

I am deeply concerned that people with mental illness and their families along with many other elderly people in our community are not receiving the services government originally intended to put in place for our ageing population. The following situation requires your attention.

1. A person who experiences chronic major mental illness all his / her life who later in life then has aged related memory loss / dementia receives a home nursing service like RDNS to administer medication (as he /she is unable to do this due to memory loss) they then also qualify for and receive a local council home help service (HACC program) and then awhile later this person, qualifies for and receives a federal government 'Community Aged Care Package CAPS' at home which enables the person to attend day centre and outings and continue to receive (HACC type) help at home with assistance with house cleaning and washing of cloths and shopping, and still this person pays in addition for a home nursing service like RDNS to administer his / her medication.
2. Sometime later this person is assessed as requiring high level home care support and qualifies for and receives a federal government 'Extended Aged Care at Home Dementia' 'EACH D' package'. However the home nursing service like RDNS (still just providing medication administration), then charges full cost recovery as the person is receiving a federal 'EACH D' package and as a result immediately after the person receives an 'EACH D' package there are no more funds left in the 'EACH D' package per week for the person to attend a day centre, have his / her house cleaned, or attend community outings, or get basic assistance to do shopping because the funds of the 'EACH D' package have been all sucked up by the home nursing service.  
The person's only choice is to give up the 'EACH D' package or starve ! This sucks !

I believe that the federal government policies regarding aged care packages at home were about helping people to be able to stay at home as long as possible and out of expensive nursing home care and about fairness dignity choice and independence ? Am I wrong?

How many people are entering nursing homes unnecessarily and before their time due to this ridiculous funding anomaly?

It would seem the federal government EACH and EACH D package could be unwittingly promoting a greater more costly move toward institutional care for many older Australians.

*I'm sure you would agree this needs to be sorted out now.* How will your new home care packages remedy this?

What will you do to address this specific injustice?

I look forward to your prompt reply

Yours Sincerely

Mr Paul Mckillop  
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*" We are the children breaking the silence "*

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