

Media Release
Wednesday 9 March 2022

Restrictive Practices

Aged Rights Advocacy Service (ARAS) remains concerned that restrictive practices continue to be used on older people living in residential aged care without adequate independent authorisation as recommended by the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

ARAS is supportive of the Ageing and Adult Safeguarding (Restrictive Practices) Amendment Bill (27 October 2021), introduced by the Hon. John Darley, which was designed to afford the same rights and protections to older people living in aged care as afforded to people living with a disability in South Australia.

The Royal Commission made clear that basic human rights must be protected and upheld for the frail aged, one of our most vulnerable groups. The use of restrictive practices in aged care should be based on an assessment by an **independent expert** and subject to ongoing reporting and monitoring; that is, restrictive practices should be prohibited, unless recommended by an independent expert, accredited for the purpose of a behaviour support plan reviewed quarterly by the expert, with reports on the implementation of the behaviour support plan being provided on a monthly basis.

ARAS acknowledges and welcomes the current national reforms including the Serious Incident Response Scheme and Senior Practitioner Restrictive Practices however ARAS believes that there continues to be a gap that should be filled by having a state-based **statutory authorised officer** who would approve any restrictive practices. This approach would also have a clear pathway for a review supporting the human rights of older people living in residential aged care.

ARAS calls for bipartisan commitment to progress the Bill post the election and uphold the human rights of older South Australians.

ARAS has been supporting older people in South Australia to uphold their aged care and human rights since 1990. ARAS is the South Australian member of the Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN).

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