Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this review process.

We would like to make the following points:

- Ageing is a lifelong process, with older age being another part of life.
- There is no such thing as “the elderly” with great variations across ages and stages of people classified as old, and great variations between people.
- There is a wide window of opportunity to promote healthy ageing and protect against disease and disability.
- There is a long tail of prevention, helping even those with disease and disability to avoid further consequences, regain abilities and be supported to have meaningful quality of life.
- Long term care is an important part of this long tail.

Studying older women in the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health, we estimate that

- from around age 78, a woman will spend 8 years without using aged care, 5 years using home care to support her to stay at home, and 2.5 years in residential aged care (a nursing home).
- aged care is a normal part of later life for these women.

Home care services can delay admission to residential aged care. However, our data show the level of home care use is frequently inadequate to meet this goal with most women using a low volume of a few home services.

Much needs to be done to increase access to more community aged care services earlier, and to increase the opportunities for prevention and reablement within the aged care services. We would also argue strongly for better and more seamless integration between health care and aged care.

Healthy ageing, prevention, and aged care are all part of the same system, but with different goals and actions depending on the life stage and circumstances.

Aged care is “the long tail” of the prevention pathway. Even very frail old people can maintain their capacities, regain strengths and abilities, and can prevent future loss and decline. Care should support what people can do rather than only compensating for what they can't do.

The World Health Assembly is calling for every country to adopt a long term care system. We have been working with the International Longevity Centre Global Alliance to:

- define long term care from a human rights perspective
- develop and apply a framework that can be used to make person-centred international comparisons of LTC systems across different country settings, and highlight exemplars of best practice.

The Global Alliance has also been working to:
- Highlight various approaches to prevention in an ageing world, led by ILC UK.
- Work with the UN Commission on Status of Women to maintain older women on their agenda

The Global Alliance is a strong supporter of the need for a Convention on the Rights of Older Persons, strongly holding that we need protections of specific rights of older people and to set community standards that should operate to enable these rights.

We also strongly support the collection and use of age and gender disaggregated data to gauge the effectiveness of these human rights protections. We also encourage use of longitudinal and linked routinely collected data on health care and aged care use, to enabling planning and assessment of equity of use and outcomes of services for older people.

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