



MEDIA RELEASE

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Sector ready to work with new Aged Care Commissioner

The New Zealand Aged Care Association welcomes the appointment of the first Aged Care Commissioner Carolyn Cooper as an opportunity to work together in the best interests of the sector.

Simon Wallace Chief Executive of the NZACA says the sector had initially been opposed to the establishment of an Aged Care Commissioner as a doubling up on an already rigorous audit and reporting system and robust complaints process.

“However, having had the opportunity to provide input in shaping the new role, we’d like to see the Aged Care Commissioner become someone other than a regulator focused solely on compliance and complaints.

“The new Commissioner is in a position to take a leadership and advocacy role to be able to speak freely about matters that have a direct impact on care. This includes funding and staffing that involves the ongoing loss of our Registered Nurses to District Health Boards offering pay packages that rest home providers are not funded to match.

“We congratulate and welcome Carolyn Cooper on her appointment as the first Aged Care Commissioner, someone who we know has extensive experience and in-depth knowledge of the sector and the challenges we currently face.

“Ultimately, we are all striving for the same outcome – the ability to give our older people quality care where and when they need it.

“Rather than another ambulance at the bottom of the cliff we want to see the role of Aged Care Commissioner help address the fundamental policy and fiscal issues that are undermining our ability to achieve that outcome.”



ENDS

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