



## Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety

### ***"I am a polio survivor: should I make a submission and what should I write about?"***

Polio Australia is making a submission on behalf of all polio survivors. However, we encourage every individual to make their own submission. It is important to have your voice heard and for the Commission to hear about the issues that face polio survivors, from as many people as possible.

Below we have outlined some of the key experiences of other polio survivors, and some of the focuses of Polio Australia's submission. These examples may or may not be relevant to you – and it is important to write only about your own experience.

### **"I didn't even know about MyAgedCare – how was I meant to access it?"**

Some polio survivors have explained that there is a lack of knowledge about MyAgedCare – their health professionals and/or other support services did not inform them about it.

### **"I am struggling to understand what my options are with MyAgedCare" or "I don't understand the package I am receiving"**

The Aged Care system has multiple different packages or ways of getting funding and supporting including programs such as Continuity of Support and Commonwealth Home Support Programmes. Some polio survivors have reported confusion with understanding what package they are actually receiving and how their package works.

### **"There is a lack of understanding about my disability-related needs" or "Aged care funding is insufficient for the complex needs of older Australians living with a disability"**

Some polio survivors report that the funding they receive does not cater for their disability, but rather only focuses on ageing. For example, they may allocate you ramps and rails in your home, but not see the importance of your orthoses (braces/calipers). Or, they may limit the services you receive, encouraging you to be independent, without realising you need to avoid the over-use of muscles due to polio.

### **"There is a lack of available support and funding for assessed care needs and the waitlists are very long"**

Some polio survivors report that once they have been assessed, their needs are often not able to be met due to lack of funding. This may mean that they are put on a long waitlist and/or offered a package that is below their requirement.

### **"There is not much funding for aids and equipment"**

Some polio survivors report that they are unable to get aids and equipment through the Aged Care system. Often they rely on state-based equipment programs, or, have to fund this equipment themselves.

### **"The aged care assessor didn't know much about disability or polio, and it made them hard to assess me properly"**

Some polio survivors have reported that when they are assessed for an aged care package, the assessor is not knowledgeable about their condition, and therefore they are inadequately assessed. For example, a polio survivor has severe fatigue, but the assessor sees them on a "good" day where their fatigue levels are okay.