



New South Wales Branch
President Kath Hadden
Secretary Mark Boyd

To Members of the General Purpose Standing Committee No.

Inquiry into Elder Abuse in NSW South Wales

Sent by email: GPSC2.GPSC2@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Document tendered by	Mel Gaffield
Received by	Erica Veegels
Date:	19/03/08/16
Resolved to publish	Yes / No

Dear NSW Elder Abuse Inquiry members,

I am writing to you in regards to an error of fact contained in United Voice's submission and made in representations to the inquiry by myself on Monday 22 February 2016.

I wish to correct the statement on page 27, paragraph 4 of the reported proceedings transcript, where it states:

"There is an intergovernmental agency reporting mechanism and when New South Wales homecare services were part of the Government they would have to comply with that. As soon as you go into the community sector—and now home care is with Australian Unity—it relies on Australian Unity having the appropriate policies and procedures in place..."

It has since come to my attention that the NSW Interagency Policy – *Preventing and responding to abuse of older people* is a policy that extends to all providers, not just services administered by Government agencies.

Although, previously the interagency policy was an interagency protocol that only applied to Government agencies, the Interagency Committee on Responding to Elder Abuse refined the elder abuse policy from being an interagency protocol to being a state wide policy, which is the situation that currently applies.

After seeking clarification from the Elder Abuse Resource Unit, I can confirm that 'interagency' is defined in a generic sense as 'government, non-government, community service, organisation or service provider'. Therefore the *Preventing and responding to abuse of older people* policy does extend to all providers including Australian Unity. In light of this information, I ask that the record be amended to reflect these facts.

Further to this, I wish to note that whilst a state wide policy on elder abuse is a positive achievement, while it remains that there is no mandatory reporting or training in relation to elder abuse in the sector, the ways in which providers approach elder abuse and support direct care workers to identify and respond to elder abuse will remain inconsistent.

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Please note that an amended version of the NSW branch United Voice submission to the inquiry was updated to reflect this information and resubmitted on Thursday 25 February 2016.

Yours sincerely,

Mel Gatfield

Assistant Secretary

United Voice NSW Branch

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