

## LONG TERM CARE OF THE ELDERLY COMMITTEE BILL

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Long term care of the elderly in public and private hospitals has been subject to an assets test for new patients since 1 July 1993. This has been a divisive policy, with many seeing the new regime as unfair and discriminatory.

This Bill establishes a multiparty committee to report on the funding and provision of long stay care of the elderly in New Zealand. Membership would be drawn from all parties represented in Parliament.

The multiparty committee would have powers to hear submissions from all interested groups and individuals with a view to recommending measures that are seen to be fair, equitable, and affordable, and which achieve the maximum degree of consensus within the wider New Zealand community.

*Clause 2: Multiparty committee established:* This clause requires a committee to be established which will report to the House on the funding and provision of long stay care of the elderly. The terms of reference of the committee are wide and the committee is also charged with consulting widely.

*Clause 3: Membership:* This clause provides that the committee is to consist of six members of Parliament drawn from all the parties currently represented in Parliament.

*Clause 4: Report:* This clause requires the committee to make its first report to the House not later than 6 months after the Bill becomes law on receiving the Royal assent.

*Clause 5: Powers and procedures:* This clause gives the committee such powers as are "reasonably necessary or expedient" and allows the committee to regulate its own procedures.

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*Hon Clive Matthewson*

## LONG TERM CARE OF THE ELDERLY COMMITTEE

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### ANALYSIS

Title	3. Membership
1. Short Title and commencement	4. Report
2. Multiparty committee established	5. Powers and procedures

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### A BILL INTITULED

#### **An Act to establish a multiparty committee to investigate the funding and provision of long term care of the elderly in New Zealand**

5 BE IT ENACTED by the Parliament of New Zealand as follows:

**1. Short Title and commencement**—(1) This Act may be cited as the Long Term Care of the Elderly Committee Act 1994.

10 (2) This Act shall come into force on the 28th day after the date on which it receives the Royal assent.

**2. Multiparty committee established**—(1) There is hereby established a multiparty committee to be called the Long Term Care of the Elderly Committee whose function shall be to conduct an investigation into and report to the House of  
15 Representatives on the issues surrounding the funding and provision of long term care for the elderly, so as to recommend measures that are widely seen to be comprehensive, equitable, and affordable.

20 (2) The function of the committee specified in subsection (1) of this section shall be given the widest possible interpretation so as to include the consideration of matters such as the effects on savings behaviour, appropriate levels of State and individual responsibility, marriage relationships, quality of care, and current and future fiscal considerations.

(3) In performing its function, the committee shall consult widely, and include among the persons it consults members of organisations representing older New Zealanders, caregivers, and health professionals.

**3. Membership**—(1) The Committee shall consist of six 5  
members of Parliament—

- (a) Two of whom shall be appointed by the Prime Minister:
- (b) Two of whom shall be appointed by the Leader of the  
Opposition:
- (c) One of whom shall be appointed by the Leader of the 10  
Alliance:
- (d) One of whom shall be appointed by the Leader of the  
New Zealand First Party.

(2) One member of the Committee, being an appointee of  
the Prime Minister, shall be appointed chairperson of the 15  
Committee.

**4. Report**—The Committee shall report to the House of  
Representatives its findings on the matters specified in **section 2**  
of this Act, together with such recommendations the  
Committee thinks fit to make in respect of those matters, no 20  
later than six months after the date on which this Act receives  
the Royal assent.

**5. Powers and procedures**—(1) The Committee shall have  
all such powers as are reasonably necessary or expedient to  
enable it to carry out its function. 25

(2) Subject to this Act, the Committee may regulate its  
procedure in such a manner and at such a time and place  
within New Zealand as it thinks fit.

(3) The powers of the Committee shall not be affected by any  
vacancy arising in the Committee, nor by the absence at any 30  
time of any member of the Committee.