



Productivity Commission Carer Leave Inquiry

The Productivity Commission undertook to examine the economic and social impacts of allowing informal carers to take extended unpaid leave from their work to care for older people who are frail and living at home.

In particular, the Inquiry aims to examine the economic and social impacts of providing a statutory leave entitlement to extended unpaid carers that provide informal care to older people who are frail and living at home, while offering employment protection on return to work.

The Terms of Reference of the Inquiry require the Productivity Commission to:

- Explore the adequacy of current leave arrangements in providing informal support for older Australians.
- Consider the impact on the labour market and employers from potential changes to employment standards.
- Consider the economic and social costs and benefits from any change to the National Employment Standards (NES), including those that will impact older Australians, residential aged care services, and broader regulatory, economic and social impacts.
- Consider alternative ways to support informal carers to support older Australians.
- Consider the application of paid leave or long-term unpaid carer's leave for other types of care, such as caring for people with disability or having temporary or terminal illness.

In our submission, Cancer Council Australia and the McCabe Centre for Law and Cancer urged the Productivity Commission to consider the case for extended unpaid carer's leave from an equity perspective to ensure that carers with the greatest needs receive the greatest protections and support. We recommended that the Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth) be amended to provide extended unpaid carer's leave so employees can better meet their caring responsibilities.

Information about the progress of the consultation, along with a copy of our submission (number 57) can be found on the consultation's [webpage](#).