



**Name:** Bronwen Mary Dalton

**Submission date:** 2/06/2025

## Participant background

1. For the purposes of this consultation, which of the following best describes you:  
I am an interested community member
2. Which of the following care sectors will your feedback relate to? Please select all that apply.  
Aged care; Disability; Early childhood education and care; Health; Veterans
3. What kind of care supports, services and programs do you have experience with, and in what jurisdictions?  
The participant did not respond to this question.

## 1. Reform of quality and safety regulation to support a more cohesive care economy

1. To what extent do differences in quality and safety regulation make it costly or complex to provide or access care services?  
The participant did not respond to this question.
2. What are the reasons for your answer?  
The participant did not respond to this question.
3. To what extent should quality and safety regulations be more aligned across the different care service sectors and jurisdictions?  
The participant did not respond to this question.
4. What are the reasons for your answer?  
The participant did not respond to this question.

## 2. Embed collaborative commissioning to increase the integration of care services

1. What is your experience with collaborative commissioning  
I am a researcher that has published extensively on the relationship between government and the not-for-profit sector, particularly in Australia. My work explores topics like cross-sector partnerships, social benefit bonds, and the challenges of managing diverse not-for-profit service providers and the rise of big charity in Australia.
2. What are the benefits of pursuing greater collaborative commissioning?  
Benefits of Collaborative Commissioning include improving resource use through joint regional planning, anticipating future system demands and financial needs, and influencing funding reforms at the state and federal levels.

3. What are the barriers to collaborative commissioning, and do you have any suggestions for solutions that would lead to better collaboration in the commissioning of care services?

Preference in funding mechanisms should go to not-for-profit organisations. Not-for-profits prioritise the needs and well-being of their clients over profit margins, unlike for-profit entities which aim to generate returns for their owners. Not-for-profits reinvest any surplus funds back into their programs and services, often aiming to make their services accessible and affordable for all.

### 3. A national framework to support government investment in prevention

1. What are the main barriers to governments investing in evidence-based prevention programs across the care economy?

Lack of govt funded independent rigorous evaluations to build evidence base.

Failure to ensure programs can only meet funding criteria if they can cite the evidence base informing the programs.

Lack of resourcing to set up infrastructure to collect comparable baseline (and wave and end of program) data across whole system.

Lack of transparency and accountability among for profit care providers.

Lack of enforcement or meaning consequences for breaches.

2. What are some examples of successful prevention programs (this could include discontinued programs)?

Most evidence-based programs from pre-natal to 5 years of age will lead to positive outcomes over the lifetime of the individual (eg anti-natal health and education; infant nutrition support, quality early childhood education). Later probably one of the most successful interventions has been serving breakfast to children from poor families before school. But overall high quality early childhood education likely to have the greatest positive impact not just on individual trajectories but national productivity.

In terms of amelioration of suffering, housing first. Health, education and other interventions cannot success if you do not have the stability of a home.

3. How can governments better support investment in prevention activities that have broad and long-term benefits for the Australian community?

Free high quality early childhood education

More public housing