



THE HON JUSTINE ELLIOT MP

Minister for Ageing

MEDIA RELEASE

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Outgoing Aged Care Commissioner Recognised

Minister for Ageing, Justine Elliot thanked Australia's first Aged Care Commissioner, Ms Rhonda Parker who today completed her three year appointment.

Minister Elliot recognised Ms Parker's commitment and dedication to the role of Commissioner over the last three years.

Minister Elliot said: "Ms Parker set about the role of Aged Care Commissioner with a strong commitment to the protection of older Australians receiving aged care services.

"She came to the role with a wealth of knowledge and experience and her efforts will have a lasting effect on quality in the aged care sector.

"Ms Parker has made a significant contribution to the quality of care and safety of aged care residents through her rigorous scrutiny of the aged care sector. I greatly appreciate her efforts and her contribution."

Following the completion of Ms Parker's term and her decision not to re-nominate, the Government has commenced an open selection process for a new Commissioner. This is in line with its commitment to transparent merit based selection processes.

For the period of this selection process, Adjunct Professor John Kelly AM has been appointed temporarily as the Aged Care Commissioner from 1 May 2010.

Professor Kelly has a broad background in the health sector from both legal and management perspectives and is well qualified to undertake the roles and functions of the Aged Care Commissioner.

Professor Kelly is a consultant to Guild Lawyers in the areas of commercial, corporate and competition law as well as general regulatory compliance and governance advice. Before this he was a partner at top 10 law firms for more than a decade after spending 15 years in clinical and senior management positions in health care. He has particular expertise in the governance and regulation of aged care.

Professor Kelly is an Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery and Health at the University of Technology, Sydney and Adjunct Associate Professor, Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery at the University of Sydney. He was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2009 for his service to the community in the areas of nursing and aged care policy development, and to healthcare management.

The Aged Care Commissioner is a statutory appointment made under the *Aged Care Act 1997*.

For more information, contact Mrs Elliot's office on (02) 6277 7280