

Media Release

Compassionate people, dedicated to care

Issued on March 29 2023

Response to ABC's 'Prisoner of the State' Background Briefing feature from Hall & Prior Health & Aged Care Group

Further to Anne Connolly's investigation report for ABC's *Background Briefing* which included mention of one of Hall & Prior Health & Aged Care Group's residents on Sunday March 26, Hall & Prior have issued the following statement.

"When a resident in our care is unable to give informed consent about care and accommodation options, our nurse leaders look to family to be the residents appointed decision maker.

When no family members are willing or able to take this role, we will ask the State Administrative Tribunal to appoint someone to make decisions on behalf of the individual.

Hall & Prior play no role in deciding who is appointed – this is the role of the tribunal.

This was the case in one of our residents, referred to as 'Dan' in Anne Connolly's article, whom the State Administrative Tribunal appointed the Public Guardian to support Dan in making decisions about his care.

Regarding the fees charged for Dan's care, amounting to \$75,000 per year (\$205 per day), this covers the resident's accommodation, 24/7 care from highly trained nursing staff and carers, five meals and snacks per day, therapy and a well-being program.

Regarding the comment made in the article by Dan about the facility being locked from 5pm until 8am, this is done to prevent possible harm to any of our residents. Residents are able to leave and return after this time if it is safe for them to do so.

Should the public guardian, who is appointed to look after Dan's best interests advise us that he is to receive accommodation and care elsewhere, he is welcome to leave. Until such time we will continue to provide hospitality and care in a respectful, person centred manner.

Advocare have been supporting Dan through this process. Hall & Prior continue to encourage independent advocacy for residents.

While we acknowledge issues surrounding the public guardian process, they work in partnership with aged care providers to make decisions where no family are able or willing to do so."

-Ends-

For all media enquiries please contact:

Office of the CEO

Gabi Mills, Communications Manager

M: 0414 336 470 **E:** GMills@hallprior.com.au



HALL & PRIOR
Health & Aged Care Group