



## MEDIA RELEASE: For immediate release ROYAL COMMISSION INTO AGED CARE QUALITY and SAFETY – 18 January 2019

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Aged Rights Advocacy Service Inc (ARAS) welcomes the commencement of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety with the directions hearing being held in Adelaide today.

Carolanne Barkla, Chief Executive of ARAS says 'it is critical that the voice of older people and their families are heard at the Royal Commission providing an opportunity to tell their stories, both good and bad, about their experiences of the aged care system'.

Ms Barkla says 'In recent times there have been too many stories from around the nation exposing poor quality care, elder abuse, long waiting lists to obtain aged care packages as well as difficulties accessing and navigating the aged care system'.

The Royal Commission, with its significant investigative powers can examine the wide ranging issues concerning older people and their families, determine the extent of the issues and provide a pathway forward for change.

Ms Barkla says 'that ultimately older Australians and their families need to be able to trust in an aged care system that is transparent, robust, delivers quality of care and quality of life where older people are treated with respect and dignity, live a life of purpose, free from violence, abuse or neglect'.

**ARAS is a proud member of the Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) and provides support in South Australia. ARAS is a founding member of Elder Abuse Action Australia (EAAA).**

**Media Contact: Carolanne Barkla, Chief Executive 0439 206 184**