

Dear members,

The Australian Recreational Therapy Association (ARTA) have listened and acknowledged the negative impact that the 200-care minutes have had upon the lifestyle industry in aged care. On September 1st, ARTA board (Michael Murgolo, Renée Smith) and member (Jacqueline Quirke) met with the minister's advisor, Summer Brady, to raise the current concerns occurring throughout many workforces that our members are employed within. As a collective group, the ARTA representatives highlighted concerns such as: the reduction of hours, the implementation of employers requesting lifestyle staff to conduct personal care work, and some who have been made redundant from their roles.

While issues were listened to and taken on by Summer Brady, the response was, that presently, Government hadn't been presented with feedback from industry around impacts of the 200 care minutes on social, emotional, psychological, and spiritual needs of vulnerable Australians, and in particular people living with dementia. The statistics around clinical concerns had been doing well. And they were not aware of the implications on the roles of ARTA members and non-members working in Lifestyle roles within care homes. The recommendation from Summer Brady on behalf of Anika Wells was to request that both feedback, complaints, and detailed experiences of role impacts/ changes of our members and non-members be made to the aged care quality commission.

ARTA has provided suggestions to the minister of improvements that would assist the aged care industry, as well as the recreational therapy sector, with suggestions such as: lifestyle being incorporated within the 200 care minutes, bringing forward the review of the implications of the 200-care minutes on leisure and lifestyle to 2023- not waiting until 2025. ARTA has offered to provide support to the Quality Commission Auditors regarding onsite visits to homes and discussions around the provision of leisure and lifestyle programs, exploration of how Leisure and Lifestyle is incorporated into the up-and-coming quality of life tool, and ARTA to assist with the commission in all future decisions for aged care. However, ARTA as an association requires assistance from our members. As requested, there has been minimal feedback and experiences lodged with the aged care quality commission, around the current experiences of ARTA members and non-members in leisure and recreation roles in aged care, highlighting that the minister does not believe there is concern at this current stage. As a board, we encourage all who have had their roles changed within the industry, to complete an anonymous complaint to the commission, highlighting what has occurred within the home since the introduction of the minutes. We know at times, people can feel concerned with voicing experiences of industry and attaching your name/ organization to these, by remaining anonymous, it can ensure anonymity against potential adverse changes within your employment and the industry.



Australian Recreational Therapy Association

Together, we can continue to make changes, be heard, and provide the missing piece within the aged care sector.

Please provide feedback via one of these options:

<https://www.agedcarequality.gov.au/consumer-feedback>

Contacting Hons Minister for Aged Care and Minister for Sport - Anika Wells -
anika.wells.mp@aph.gov.au

Emailing your local member of parliament

As an association, ARTA will continue to support, advocate, and inform the industry, government and non-government organizations of the impacts and importance to recreational therapy and lifestyle within the aged care sector, and continue to work with the minister for change.

Sincerely,

President
Australian Recreational Therapy Association