Office of Hon JohnCarter

M P for Northland

Minister of Civil Defence
Minister for Senior Citizens
Minister for Racing

Associate Minister of Local Government

08 DEC 2009

07 DEC 2009

Ann Martin
Chief Executive
Age Concern New Zealand
PO Box 10 688
WELLINGTON 6143

Dear Ann

Thank you for your letter of 2 November 2009 to Minister Bennett and myself, putting forward proposals for Elder Abuse prevention and case management for seniors with complex needs. I am replying on behalf of both of us.

I have considered your proposals and I commend you on the thought and analysis that has gone into the documents. I appreciate 'the significant contribution Age Concern already makes to improve the well-being of older New Zealanders, and this is particularly evident in your work to date around elder abuse.

You will be well aware that this Government is scrutinising all expenditure very closely, with no new money available. We are not planning to make budget bids in the areas you propose. It is worth noting that we would, as a matter of principle, open up any future funded service opportunities to competitive tender.

Your proposal around elder abuse prevention makes a lot of sense. However, we are not planning to extend current services at this time.

I understand that you have discussed your proposal around case management of seniors with complex needs, with officials from the Ministry of Social Development. I agree that services need to be well coordinated around those in most need. Given the lack of additional funding I would like to see how existing resources and skills might be used to better effect at a local level.

I believe the Ministry's Senior Services have indicated they would be keen to work even more closely with Age Concern to develop innovative ways to improve the way we work together for seniors. I support this approach.

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Thank you for your continuing leadership in the area of serving older New Zealanders. I look forward to the work we do being sustained as we move through the economic downturn, with the business of ageing becoming a key focus for communities and for Government.

Yours sincerely

Hon John Carter
Minister for Senior Citizens