

News release from the Right to Care campaign

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18 national organisations call for action on long term care

A coalition of 18 organisations, working under the banner *Right to Care*, are supporting a statement released by the members of the Royal Commission into Long Term Care.

The Right to Care campaign believes that the Government must fully fund personal and nursing care that is free at the point of use for all who need long term care, wherever they live in the UK, as recommended in the Royal Commission report.

The current system is confusing and unfair. Figures from the Department of Work and Pensions show that 61% of people judged to rich for state help had incomes of less than £200 a week. These people will typically face bills of £300 a week for personal care and accommodation.

“Nearly five years on this remains a huge issue. At least 150,000 people of are still paying for aspects of their care, many of whom have moderate and low incomes.”

- Myfanwy Manning, Unison NEC member, Chair of the Right to Care Campaign

“The arguments which lead the government to support the universal provision of healthcare through the NHS apply to the care of older and disabled people at least as strongly. It is wrong that people with long term medical conditions like dementia have to pay for care.”

- Professor Harry Keen, President, NHS Support Federation

notes: members of the Right to Care campaign include UNISON, Association of Charity Officers; Action on Elder Abuse; Age Concern England; Age Concern Scotland; Alzheimer's Society; Arthritis Care; Carers UK; Coalition on Charging; Counsel and Care; Leonard Cheshire; Mencap; National Pensioner's Convention; NHS Support Federation; The Patients' Association; RADAR; Royal College of Nursing; VOICES

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