

# PsychAGE News

**Information and commentary about older adult and carer wellbeing**

Issue 6, 19th October, 2018: (Scott Morrison) Are You Paying Attention?

“Are you paying attention?... If you are not listening carefully, you will miss things. Important things.” Could these words spoken by Benedict Cumberbatch, who plays Alan Turing in *The Imitation Game*, also be for Scott Morrison our Prime Minister? My concern with the Royal Commission into aged care is that it will just tell the government, and the public, what they want to hear and deflect attention away from how much more funding is needed so that providers stop haemorrhaging all over the place.

There is no excuse for abuse and maybe some providers are unethical in a ‘profit over people’ approach but this is what I would like Scott Morrison to pay attention to: the research suggesting that 45% of facilities are making a loss; that even before Oakden staff in care homes have to trip over themselves to comply with accreditation standards which makes it harder for them to offer the quality that they are supposed to and difficult to notice less obvious things like depressive symptoms in their residents; that a lot of staff in care homes go above and beyond the call of duty and are at risk of burnout; that the mission impossible task of getting everyone to the toilet in time is much less a reflection on staff or providers but on government not giving aged care what it needs to do the job we want it to.

Scott Morrison please don’t use the Royal Commission to imitate stereotypes in the media and please—listen carefully and pay attention.

In other news:

- The Every Age Counts campaign has been officially launched and has a great 2min clip [here](#).
- Little ol’ Adelaide now has a Global Centre for Modern Ageing and a great website [here](#).



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