



Press Release
From: The Relatives &
Residents Association
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Relatives' charity wants government to improve care funding – but not at the expense of creating a two-tiered system that penalises the less well-off

The Relatives & Residents Association today warned the government against creating a two tiered system of care for older people when it publishes a green paper on the future funding of care later this year. Commenting on the Caring Choices report, published by a consortium of charities which found that most of the people surveyed favoured a system where the state matches an individual's contribution beyond a publicly funded minimum package of care, Dr Gillian Dalley, chief executive of the R&RA, said "a review of the social care funding system is long overdue but in sanctioning more support for home owners and people with assets, the government must avoid the danger of consigning poorer pensioners to the bottom of the pile, qualifying only for a restricted package of lower standard care."

The R&RA is concerned that by giving more generous support to people with assets, those with no resources to contribute will be penalised. Dr Dalley continued "Older people in England are poor for a great many reasons which are usually to do with circumstances beyond their control. We are concerned that understandable attempts to rectify injustice to people with savings and other capital assets will result in a system that penalises those who had nothing to begin with."

There is also a danger that help will be given with one hand and taken away by another. "Self-funded residents already receive help from the state in the form of state pension and attendance allowance. If these payments stop, the overall amount of help on offer to people on limited incomes will not be so great," she concludes.

Notes to editors

1. R&RA is the national charity that promotes the wellbeing of older people in care and their relatives by providing advice, support and information, and campaigning for improved standards and better quality of life for all care home residents. The R&RA has a telephone advice line on 020 7359 8136.

2. The Caring Choices report *The Future of Care Funding*, was released on 7 January 2008 and is available from the King's Fund at www.kingsfund.org.uk.

3. R&RA Chief Executive, Gillian Dalley, can be contacted on 020 7359 8148 or 07971 05507. Advisor to the R&RA, Les Bright, can be contacted on 01392 424696 or 07712 386846