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Submission No.	1061
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BY: LACA SUBMISSION TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES LEGAL AND
CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.

INQUIRY INTO OLDER PEOPLE AND THE LAW.

The Chairman of the Committee.

Dear Mr. Slipper,

Recently two aged friends of mine were moved interstate by their adult sons very much against their wishes. Both were extremely comfortable and had considerable assets including their own homes in which they lived and capably looked after. They had innumerable friends and support services. Both were over ninety, kind, loving and trusting. Moving them interstate was of great financial gain to family members.

They were isolated from friends. One was told not to tell her friends of her imminent forced move to Sydney, where the proceeds from the sale of her house in Adelaide provided for her Sydney family. Within months her promised advantage of the move from Adelaide became a room in a nursing home. The other was prevented from seeing or speaking to her friends or doctor. Literally she was a prisoner in her own home where her son or his wife constantly monitored her every move for the month preceding abducting her from Adelaide to Western Australia where she died fifteen days later. Both these lovely ladies were bullied and coerced over a long period and were too frightened of the consequences to report anything that was happening to them to any authority. Though perfectly competent mentally, due to frailty they were physically unable to defend or speak up for themselves.

There is no protection in law for people living in their own homes.

At the present time it is all too easy for family members to exploit vulnerable parents for what could be called Estate Abuse. I ask you to consider a "Right to Stay at Home" which would help towards a happier outcome for older people.

Yours sincerely,

Jean and Douglas Giles

21 July 2007