

# OBJECTIVES OF THE AGED CARE SYSTEM

Key themes running through the *Aged Care Act 1997*, *Aged Care Principles* and *Home and Community Care Act* are:

- Guarantee and acceptable standard of care
- Provide accountability and transparency
- Facilitate access to care regardless of economic and other circumstances
- Target services and funding to those with the greatest need
- Encourage diverse, flexible, efficient and responsive services that facilitate independence and choice.

A further long-term objective of government is to realize greater integration in the provision of care for older Australians.

Questions:

- How effective has the aged care system been in addressing these objectives?
- Are there any changes that need to be made to these objectives?
- What are the implications of these objectives for any redesign of the current system?
- Should the objectives have equal weighting?
- Which objectives should be given priority?
- What conflicts might arise?
- Should Australia have an aged care system as currently in place or should a broader conception of care and disability policy be more appropriate with the needs of the ageing being one part of this continuum?