**[Draft text to support your own letter writing, as an organisation, to Australian parliamentarians/Ministers to advocate for a UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons]**

Dear…..

**[Your organisation name…]** is writing to you to express our strong support for a new UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons. We ask you and your government to stand with us, publicly stating (within the current Parliament) support for the creation of the Convention and taking the necessary steps in Australia and in the United Nations to make this a reality.

Human rights advocates around the world have long argued that ageism is a barrier to older people receiving protections through general human rights provisions.

In many parts of the world we have witnessed the diminishing status of people as they age, pushing them to the margins as rights holders. As advocates for children, people with disability, and those who experience racial or gender discrimination have already found, general human rights protections are no substitute for specificity in international human rights instruments and this has been reflected in the unanimous passage of legislation prohibiting age discrimination in every Australian jurisdiction.

Historically, Australia has played an important role in leading the world on passing and implementing conventions designed to dismantle prejudice and discrimination. However, thus far, Australia has not played a comparable role in working for the establishment of an International Convention on the Rights of Older People. It's time to step up.

If the need for a Convention was not already clear, the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that when crisis hits, the human rights of older people can readily be ignored. There is a growing recognition that the pandemic has highlighted the urgency of strengthening rights protection - in Australia and around the world.

This growing momentum to address older person human rights is reflected at the United Nations in the intensifying work of the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWGA), established in 2010 for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons; the [UN Human Rights Council Resolution 48/3](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G21/287/79/PDF/G2128779.pdf?OpenElement) passed in October 2021 (and supported by Australia); and the public [statements](https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2020-05-01/secretary-generals-message-launch-policy-brief-older-persons) from the UN Secretary General throughout the pandemic urging equality of rights and protections for older people during the crisis.

Both sides of Australian politics have a proud record of support for the development of international human rights standards and a new UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons would provide people around the world – including governments, service providers, businesses, civil society and the broader community – with the clarity we need to build a more equal and cohesive society and ensure respect for our human rights as we age.

We urge your government to: publicly support a UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons; take the necessary steps in the current Australian Parliament to move this agenda forward; and work constructively with civil society organisations in Australia and internationally to support the work of the United Nations' [OWEGA and other UN processes for the creation and adoption of the Convention*.*](https://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/index.shtml)

We look forward to receiving your response to this letter.

Yours sincerely

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