

Protect the public  
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<http://www.theage.com.au/national/letters/stop-the-inquiries-its-time-for-action-20110201-1acd9.html>

THE report on sexual assault and abuse of people with disabilities living in state-monitored residential care ("Abusers prey on Victoria's most vulnerable", 31/1) comes just days after the Productivity Commission's draft report on aged care identified variable care quality and inadequate complaints-handling processes. These findings resonate with failures identified by the Victorian Ombudsman's investigations into child protection, out-of-home care and youth justice facilities.

The reports, along with the Victorian government inquiry into the state's child protection system, reflect the need to restore public confidence in services that care for our most vulnerable. The health sector has a national regulatory body; the Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency also investigates complaints about registered health practitioners. Why is no comparative national body in place to protect the public who rely on social and community services?

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