<Date> June 2023

The Hon. Lizzie Blandthorn

Minister for Child Protection and Family Services

Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers

Level 22, 50 Lonsdale Street

Melbourne Vic 3000

*By Email -* *lizzie.blandthorn@minstaff.vic.gov.au* *and* *lizzie.blandthorn@parliament.vic.gov.au*

Dear Ministe

**Letter of Support for the Integrated Model of Care (IMOC)**

In this time of increasing awareness of Elder Abuse, the defunding of a highly valued Elder Abuse prevention service seems contradictory and one that is of great concern to community members, the sector, referrers and <organisation name /‘myself>.

<We/I> understand that the IMOC provided by Better Place Australia has seen over 1200 clients over the last five years. Three hundred older Victorians will be deprived of this prevention service. The client stories that have emerged after service completion, demonstrate the profound benefit of the service. Why would this vital service be defunded? <We /I> < witness or understand> that post-pandemic, demand has increased; waiting lists likely to increase to 8 to 10 weeks, yet this pathway to support is being terminated for all five IMOC locations?

<We/I> place great value on this unique pathway as it enables not only disclosure of elder abuse across health and community services, but intervention and outcomes that otherwise would not have been achieved in a mainstream family violence system. Without the pathways and processes that have been developed, <our / my> concern is that many more cases of elder abuse will go unidentified and unreported with poorer access to service systems providing intervention.

<We are/I am> hoping that the impact of this defunding of this service has not been fully appreciated. <We are/I am> seeking a re instatement of the five IMOC locations. There is no alternative.

Yours faithfully

**<Name>**

**<Title>**

**<Organisation Name if appropriate>**

<Contact details>