

Long-Term Commitment for Long-Term Care



COMMENTARY

Sherri Torjman, MSW
Caledon Institute of Social Policy
Ottawa, ON
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ABSTRACT

Adams and Vanin have written a timely policy paper on financing long-term care (LTC). Because the subject is so important, the paper could be even stronger in many ways.

First, the Adams and Vanin paper explores the main drivers creating pressure to reform the financing of LTC. While it focuses primarily on population aging, the rising incidence of chronic disease is another crucial factor that will drive the need for LTC.

This commentary next examines the relative strengths and weaknesses of the proposed policy options. Financing through general tax revenues may not be politically popular but it is likely the most feasible approach given the scope of funds that will be required in the future. It would also provide the most complete coverage of the population.

Finally, the commentary identifies several relevant issues that are missing from the policy conversation. The relationship to the disability agenda is crucial because many components of LTC overlap with the provision of disability supports.

Some thoughts on next steps would also be helpful. Although most theoretical papers are not concerned with questions of implementation, the latter are vital when it comes to the complex issue of LTC.

Commentary

Adams and Vanin (2016) have written an important paper that sets out key policy options for financing long-term care (LTC).

Their work addresses one of the most significant challenges that all developed nations face: how to ensure access to high-quality LTC given the anticipated need for this vital support.