



Better Support for Carers

Committee holds hearing with carers in Albury

The specific challenges facing carers living in regional and rural Australia will be explored at a public hearing in Albury on Wednesday, 1 October.

Albury and district carers group Dementia Respite Options has said many services still appear to be 'city centric'. Difficulties in accessing support services for carers and care recipients living in regional areas will be a focus for discussion.

Committee Chair, Annette Ellis (Member for Canberra, ACT) said: 'Addressing the special needs of carers living in regional and rural areas of Australia is of critical importance. Carers living in regional areas frequently need to travel longer distances to access services and so have higher transportation costs than their city dwelling counterparts. Country people can also encounter additional costs for their accommodation when their family member requires hospitalisation or acute care in a regional centre and city'.

The Committee will talk with invited carers at two roundtable discussion sessions during the day. This will offer an opportunity for carers from regional Victoria and New South Wales to let the Committee know more about the emotional, financial and social pressures they face. The Committee will be asking these carers for suggestions on how best to assist carers living outside major metropolitan centres.

The hearing will conclude with an hour long Community Statement session giving members of the public the opportunity to provide brief statements to the Committee on issues relevant to the inquiry.

The day's program is as follows:

Waratah Room, Commercial Club, 618 Dean Street, Albury

9.55 am	Opening
10.00 am	Community Options – Dementia Respite Options Albury & District
10.30 am	Daughters in Demand
11.00am	Carers Roundtable 1 Bright Carer Support Group/Kiewa Valley Carer Support Group/Myrtleford Carer Support Group Benalla Carer Support Group
12.15 pm	Break
12.45 pm	Carers Roundtable 2 Cooinda Family Support Group
2.00 pm	Community Statements
3.00 pm	Close

All are welcome to observe proceedings.

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair, Ms Annette Ellis, on (02) 6293 1344 (electorate office).

For all other inquiries please contact the Inquiry Secretary by phone on (02) 6277 4566 or by email fchy.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/fchy