



Better Support for Carers

Committee holds public hearing with carers in Hobart

'The role of a carer is of significant value to the carer, the care-recipient, the wider community and to the economy' – Carers Tasmania, submission number 671.

Community organisations providing advocacy and support to carers and their families, including Carers Tasmania, the Parkside Foundation and the Neuro Muscular Alliance Tasmania, will address the House of Representatives Family and Community Committee hearing in Hobart on Thursday, 9 October.

Carers are those who look after others, usually family members and friends with a chronic illness, disability or frailty. Recent figures from an Australian Bureau of Statistics survey found there were over 2.5 million carers in Australia, including more than 470,000 primary carers – people who provide the most care to a person needing support. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare anticipates there will be more than 600,000 primary carers by 2013, with 70 per cent likely to be women.

"Carers are often exhausted, socially isolated and under extreme financial pressure as they try to provide quality care for their loved ones with limited resources," Committee Chair Annette Ellis (Member for Canberra, ACT) said. "The strain that carers are under has certainly been forcefully illustrated in many of the 1300 submissions received by the Committee for the inquiry so far."

During the day, a roundtable discussion session will provide an opportunity for the Committee to talk directly with invited carers about the emotional, financial and social pressures they face and about their suggestions on better supports for carers.

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:

Thursday, 9 October 2008 – 9:55 am to 3.00 pm
Hobart Function and Conference Centre, Elizabeth Street Pier, Hobart

9.55 am	Opening
10.00 am	Neuro Muscular Alliance Tasmania Multiple Sclerosis Society of Tasmania
10.30 am	Carers Tasmania
11.20 am	Carers Roundtable
1.30 pm	Parkside Foundation
2.00 pm	Carers Community Statements

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