



Public hearing – Friday 7 March 2003 - Canberra

AMA, nurses and carers appear at inquiry into ageing

A range of 'coalface' health and aged care groups, including the AMA, the Nurses Federation and Carers Australia, will headline a day of public hearings for the House of Representatives inquiry into long-term strategies to address the ageing of Australia's population.

The Committee will canvass a range of long-term health and community care issues with key non-government stakeholders including:

- the Federation of Ethnic Community Councils of Australia (FECCA),
- the AMA,
- the National Aged Care Alliance,
- the Australian Nurses Federation,
- Carers Australia,
- the National Rural Health Alliance, and
- the Pharmacy Guild.

At the hearing the Committee will also discuss **employment strategies for older workers** with the Commonwealth Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, and issues related to the changing needs of **ageing indigenous Australians** with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC).

"The House Committee on Ageing is a new committee," Dr Southcott said. "Significantly, it is the first time a committee has been established to look into the broad issue of ageing, indicating the serious nature of the issue. The ageing of the baby boomers means that the government now, and the community, have to take steps to plan for what we know is going to happen in the future.

"In comparison to other developed countries, Australia is well placed to deal with an ageing population. However, this does not mean we can be complacent. It is critical that public policy is developed that takes into account population ageing. This inquiry is a significant part of the process of laying the strong foundations that can be built on to meet the future needs of all Australians."

The Committee has received more than 100 submissions. They, and other background materials, are available on the inquiry website at: www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ageing/strategies/index.htm

For comment, contact Dr Andrew Southcott on (02) 6277 4283 (Parl House)

For information and/or copies of submissions, contact the committee secretariat, on (02) 6277 4145, or visit the inquiry website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ageing>

Hearing Program - House of Representatives Committee Room 2R1, Friday 7 March 2003

9.00am – 9:45 am Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
9.45 am– 10:30am Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission

10.45am -11:30am Australian Medical Association Ltd
11.30am- 12:15 pm National Aged Care Alliance

1.15pm-2:00 pm National Rural Health Alliance
2.00pm- 2:45pm Australian Nursing Federation & Carers Australia

3.00pm-3:45pm Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia
3.45 – 4:30pm The Pharmacy Guild of Australia