



Caring for our elderly into the future

Committee holds hearing with carers in Brisbane

The importance of providing adequate and appropriate care for our ageing population will be a topic for discussion at a public hearing in Brisbane on Wednesday 20 August. This will be a particular challenge for government, as the rise in the number of older persons requiring care is predicted to outstrip the supply of people likely to be their carers.

National Seniors Australia, the Australian Association of Gerontology and the Office of the Public Advocate will address the House of Representatives Family and Community Committee on this issue as part of the committee's inquiry into better support for carers.

The complexities associated with care of the elderly with impaired decision making capacity will also be explored. This will help the committee to determine how best to assist care givers facing this difficult circumstance, while also protecting the interests of the people being cared for.

Committee Chair, Annette Ellis (Member for Canberra, ACT) said that tackling the issue of care for our elderly is of critical importance, particularly as many older people now prefer to remain and be cared for in their own homes.

As well as talking to carers groups, the committee will talk first hand to invited carers at roundtable discussion session. This will offer an opportunity for carers in Queensland to let the committee know more of the emotional, financial and social pressures carers face. The committee will be asking these carers for suggestions on how to make their work easier.

The day's program is as follows:

**The Odeon Room,
Sofitel Hotel
249 Turbot Street, Brisbane**

9:00 am	University of Queensland (School of Social Work and Human Services)
9:30 am	Australian Association of Gerontology
10:00 am	National Seniors Australia
11:00 am	Carers Queensland
11:30 am	Carers Roundtable
1:45 pm	Office of Public Advocate (Brisbane)
2:15 pm	Parent Project Australia
2:45 pm	Mental Health Carers ARAFMI Queensland
3:15 pm	Schizophrenia Fellowship (Sunshine Coast)
3:45 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