



# Stockton Hospital Welfare Association Inc.

1 SCOTT STREET  
WALLALONG NSW 2321

26<sup>th</sup> August 2002

Dr Margaret Kerley  
Committee Secretary Standing Committee on Ageing  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House CANBERRA ACT 2600

## **Review into Ageing in Australia**

The membership of our voluntary organisation consists of parents, families, foster grandparents, friends, and staff whose aim is to provide support to the residents of the Stockton, Tomaree and Kanangra Centres advocating on their behalf on issues affecting their lives.

The Stockton, Tomaree and Kananga Centres make up what is known as the Hunter Residences, accommodation and support facilities for people with an intellectual or physical disability. Within this service there are some 641 people, 378 are over the age of forty years. 44 are over sixty years, one hundred and four are fifty one to sixty years. Due to their particular disability some residents will age prematurely greatly increasing our population of those requiring aged care. The ageing population within this services are currently funded by the State Government.

As many of the residents have lived on these campuses for the greater part of their life and relocation from staff and familiar surroundings could result in an increase in their confusion, disorientation, agitation and unhappiness it is hoped that aged care facilities will be provided within familiar grounds.

Elderly people with an intellectual disability require specialised support services as many have complex medical, psychological and nutritional needs which may not be available in the generic services. There is an urgent need for more respite for ageing people with disabilities and their equally ageing parents and siblings. "Hands on training" for nurses in this field is equally important.

We feel very strongly that small purpose built cottages within the grounds of the existing facility at Stockton, where the terrain and community access make it a most satisfactory site, would be ideal for aged care units.

We request that the needs of all people with disabilities and their special requirements be given due consideration during this inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Lorna Morris (Mrs)  
Hon. secretary