



Better Support for Carers

Committee holds hearing with the National Carers Coalition

'Services to support adults with dependent disabilities are at best limited and at worst discriminatory when compared to living options available to aged care and the general population', according to the National Carers Coalition (submission 571).

The House of Representatives Family and Community Committee will be listening to evidence provided by the National Carers Coalition at a public hearing to be held in Parliament House on Wednesday, 15 October, between 10.15 am and 11.00 am.

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.

Committee Chair Annette Ellis (Member for Canberra, ACT) said that with over 1300 submissions received so far, and the opportunity to listen to carers from a wide range of situations who have generously participated at public hearings held throughout Australia, the Committee has had a valuable window into the lives of many carers.

The hearing on 15 October will be conducted by teleconference and will provide the National Carers Coalition with the opportunity to provide additional evidence to the Committee.

The program for the hearing is as follows:

Wednesday, 15 October 2008 – 10.15 am to 11.00 am
Parliament House, Committee Room 2R2

10.15 am – 11.00 am National Carers Coalition

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