



## Health and Ageing Committee to examine innovative Hunter health services

### ***Lake Macquarie City Council, Speers Point — 20 July 2006***

The Hunter Urban Division of General Practice and the Belmont Birthing Unit will give evidence to the House Health and Ageing Committee tomorrow (20 July 2006) as part of a parliamentary inquiry into health funding.

The after-hours General Practice service model developed by the Hunter Urban Division and the Belmont Hospital's midwife focused birthing service are leading examples of innovative health practices that have been developed in recent years to meet the needs of local communities.

Committee Chairman Alex Somlyay said that health funding arrangements can significantly affect the way health services are delivered. "It is important that health funding arrangements give the right incentives to health care providers to find innovative ways of delivering better health services to the community", Mr Somlyay said.

The Committee will also hear from several local health service providers, including representatives from Hunter New England Health, NIB Health Funds and psychology services.

The hearing is open to all members of the public.

**Venue: Councillors' Workroom, Lake Macquarie City Council, 126–138 Main Road, Speers Point**

The program for **Thursday 20 July 2006** is as follows:

- 9.00am Hunter New England Health
- 10.00am Mental Health Team — Hunter New England Health
- 11.00am Belmont Birthing Unit
- 11.45am Mr Duncan Brown
- 12.15pm Australian Psychological Society (Newcastle Branch)
- 1.30pm Hunter Urban Division of General Practice
- 2.15pm NIB Health Funds
- 3.00pm Union of Australian Women (Newcastle Branch)
- 3.30pm *Close*

**For media interview with the Chairman:**

Please contact Mr Somlyay's office on (07) 5471 6620.

**For a copy of the terms of reference and further information on making a submission:** Contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4145, 0421 051 837 (mobile), or email [haa.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:haa.reps@aph.gov.au) or visit the website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/haa/healthfunding/index.htm>