



Better Care for our Carers

Committee holds roundtable hearing in Sydney

The House of Representatives Family and Community Committee will be holding a roundtable discussion with a wide range of carers as part of its public hearing in Sydney on Wednesday, 6 August for the federal parliamentary inquiry into better support for carers.

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.

“Carers are often exhausted, socially isolated and under extreme financial pressure as they try to provide quality care for their loved ones with limited resources,” Committee Chair Annette Ellis (Member for Canberra, ACT) said. “The strain that carers are under has certainly been forcefully illustrated in many of the 1200 submissions received by the committee for the inquiry so far.”

The roundtable discussion will allow the Committee to hear first-hand about immediate and long-term challenges facing carers in NSW. During the roundtable discussion the Committee will look for suggestions for where further support can be provided to make carers' work easier.

The Committee will also hear evidence with a particular focus on multicultural issues from Multicultural Mental Health, the University of Western Sydney, and Carers NSW.

The day's program is as follows:

Wednesday, 6 August 2008 - 9.00am to 4:45 pm
Room 814-815 (Level 8), Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney

- 9:00am Carers NSW;
- 9:30am Association of Children's Welfare Agencies;
- 10:15am University of Western Sydney;
- 10:45am Multicultural Mental Health;
- 11:15am Anglicare NSW;
- 11:45am Carers Roundtable;
- 2:00pm Carers Cost Taskforce;
- 2:30pm University of New South Wales;
- 3:00pm Australian Foundation for Disability (AFFORD);
- 3:45pm Disability Council of NSW; and
- 4:15pm Family Advocacy.

All are welcome to observe proceedings, which will also be webcast live (audio only) on:
<http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/> .

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