



## Better Support for Carers

The House of Representatives Family and Community Committee will hear evidence on the particular challenges facing foster carers and other non-parent carers, including grandparents, at a public hearing to be held in Parliament House on Wednesday 12 November, between 10.15 am and 11.15 am.

In its submission to the inquiry, the Australian Foster Carers Association (AFCA) highlights the problems which non-parent carers can experience when dealing with government agencies such as Centrelink and Medicare.

Committee Chair, Annette Ellis (Member for Canberra, ACT) said that "non-parent carers such as foster parents, grandparents and other relatives, who are frequently required to step in at short notice, often find themselves in very challenging circumstances."

The Committee will also hear from the Canberra Mothercraft Society (CMS) which, in partnership with Relationships Australia and Marymead Child and Family Centre, operates a Grandparent Support Network. The Network provides information, counselling and assistance for grandparents who have taken on parenting of their grandchildren, including grandchildren with special needs.

The hearing on 12 November will provide the AFCA and the CMS with an opportunity to provide additional evidence on these issues to the Committee.

The program for the hearing is as follows:

**Wednesday, 12 November 2008 – 10.15 am to 11.15 am**  
**Parliament House, Committee Room 2R2**

<b>10.15 am – 10.45 am</b>	Australian Foster Carers Association
<b>10.45 am – 11.15 am</b>	Canberra Mothercraft Society

All are welcome to observe proceedings. The hearing will be webcast live 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](mailto:fchy.reps@aph.gov.au) or visit the Committee's website: [www.aph.gov.au/fchy](http://www.aph.gov.au/fchy)