



Better Support for Carers

Committee to hold hearing with national organisations

The House of Representatives Family and Community Committee will hear evidence from national peak carers bodies and Australian Government agencies at a public hearing in Parliament House on Friday 28 November, between 9.00 am and 12.00 noon.

In its submission to the inquiry, Alzheimer’s Australia reports that almost half the Australian population know a family member or friend who has dementia and although “carers of people with dementia share many of the same concerns and issues experienced by other carers...there are issues that appear unique for family carers of people with dementia”.

“With the ageing of the Australian population and people with disabilities and chronic illnesses living much longer than previously, support for carers—family members and friends who constitute such an important component of our care system—is becoming a pressing issue for our community to address,” Committee Chair, Annette Ellis (Member for Canberra, ACT) said.

Carers Australia’s submission estimates that unpaid carers in Australia provide an “annual equivalent of \$30.5 billion of formal aged and disability care services”. The submission refers to significant demographic and social changes making the future role and capacity of carers a pressing issue for governments to consider, calling for the Council of Australian Governments to provide leadership in developing a national framework to address carer needs.

The Committee will also hear from the three Australian Government departments with responsibility for programs and services which specifically target carers.

**Wednesday, 28 Nov 2008 – 9.00 am to 12.00 am
Parliament House, Committee Room 1R5**

9:00am	Alzheimer’s Australia
9:30am	Carers Australia
10:00am	Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs; Department of Health and Ageing; and Department of Veterans’ Affairs

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 or visit the Committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/fchy