



ATT: Radio Producers - potential talkback topic

Call for public input

**Committee on Ageing calls for
submissions to ageing inquiry**

The House of Representatives Committee on Ageing invites members of the public and interested groups and stakeholders to have their say on the **long-term strategies to address the ageing of the Australian population over the next 40 years**.

The House Committee on Ageing - a new Committee of the Parliament - has commenced an inquiry into issues surrounding the anticipated ageing of the Australian population.

The inquiry, referred to the Committee on Ageing by Hon. Kevin Andrews, Minister for Ageing, will investigate a broad range of issues, including the current and future adequacy of retirement incomes, workforce participation, aged care, education, housing and health.

The Chair of the Committee, Dr Andrew Southcott, says: "We are interested in exploring initiatives to prepare Australia for the significant changes expected to occur in our population over the next 40 years, and to keep Australia at the forefront of best practice globally.

"How are we as a society going to deal with the range of issues being faced such as health care, housing and ensuring adequate retirement incomes? We cannot afford to be complacent and must act now to set in place good strong foundations for the future."

The inquiry will build on the work of the Government's Intergenerational Report and encourage community discussion of the issues.

"The issues raised by an ageing population are not the sole responsibility of the Government, but require ongoing action by all sectors of the community working together," Dr Southcott said.

"The Committee is encouraging interested members of the public and stakeholders to submit their views and ideas to assist the Committee in identifying timely and effective strategies to meet the future needs of all Australians."

The closing date for submissions is 30 August 2002.

For comment, contact Dr Andrew Southcott on (08) 8374 0511, (mob) 0419 866 699

For information and/or copies of submissions, contact the inquiry secretary,
Mr Adam Cunningham on (02) 6277 2336, or visit the inquiry website at
<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ageing>