



Better Support for Carers

Committee holds hearing with Carers in Canberra

The House of Representatives Family and Community Committee will be holding its first ACT public hearing on 26 September for the better support for carers inquiry.

“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) said. “The strain that carers are under has certainly been forcefully illustrated in many of the 1300 submissions received by the committee for the inquiry so far.”

The public hearing will have a strong focus on evidence from carers themselves. A carers roundtable discussion will allow the Committee to hear directly from carers resident in the ACT and nearby regions. Carers will have the opportunity to speak about the challenges they face on a day-to-day basis and their suggestions on where further support could help them in their caring role.

Carers 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.

During the public hearing, Carers ACT, amongst other organisations representing and supporting carers, will address the Committee. The hearing will close with an hour long Community Statement session giving members of the public the opportunity to provide brief statements to the Committee on issues relevant to the inquiry.

The day’s program is as follows:

Friday, 26 September 2008 - 10.00 am to 3.00 pm
Top of the Cross, Southern Cross Club, 92-96 Corinna St., Phillip ACT

10.05am	Carers ACT
10.50am	Carers Roundtable
1.00pm	Anglicare Canberra and Goulburn
1.30pm	Tandem
2.00pm	Community Statements

Members of the public are welcome to observe the proceedings.

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