



## Better Support for Carers

### *Committee welcomes the opportunity to hear more on the issues facing Indigenous carers*

The House of Representatives Family and Community Committee will hear evidence relating to the particular challenges facing Indigenous carers living in the Northern Territory at a public hearing to be held at Parliament House in Canberra on Wednesday 26 November starting at 10:05 am.

Recent figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics indicate that in 2006 there were around 32,600 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers aged 15 years and over in Australia. Of these, approximately two thirds live in regional, rural or remote areas.

Though his work as Director of Psychiatry of Top End Mental Health Services, and his involvement in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health services, Associate Professor Parker will share the insights he has gained in relation to some of the issues that Indigenous carers living in the Northern Territory encounter.

Committee Chair, Annette Ellis (Member for Canberra, ACT) said "the Committee is aware that the belief and value systems that underpin Indigenous cultures may make accessing mainstream services more difficult for this group of carers. Coupled with the earlier onset of certain chronic health conditions in Indigenous populations, the social and economic impacts are likely to be more significant for Indigenous care givers and their families."

The Committee will also hear from representatives of the Mackay Group Home Project. The Project was established by a group of families in Mackay seeking to provide suitable supported accommodation which will enable their adult children with disabilities to live 'independently' in the community.

The program for the hearing is as follows:

**Wednesday, 26 November 2008 – 10.05 am to 11.00 am**  
**Parliament House, Committee Room 2R2**  
**(Witnesses linked via teleconference)**

**10.05 am** Associate Professor Robert Parker and Ms Tess Narkle  
**10.35 am** Mackay Group House Project

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)