



## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

### **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE CONDUCTS HACC INQUIRY HEARINGS**

The Public Accounts Committee will take evidence from agencies, service providers and consumer organisations involved in the Home and Community Care Program (HACC) on Friday 22 and Monday 25 September announced the Committee Chair, Noreen Hay MP.

“The hearings are a key part of the Committee’s major inquiry into the Home and Community Care Program. In 2006-07 more than \$500 million of State and Commonwealth funding will be spent on the New South Wales HACC program. This program pays for services to help frail older people, the disabled and their carers so they can continue living at home rather than in institutions. The Committee is trying to find out whether these vital services are being managed in the best way possible.

“This evidence will provide the Committee with insight into the efficiency and effectiveness of the joint arrangements by the Commonwealth and NSW Government for approval of the annual expenditure plan for the HACC Program, ” said Ms Hay.

The inquiry will also follow up recommendations from a Performance Audit of the Home Care Service of NSW, the largest HACC provider in NSW. This was conducted by the Auditor-General in October 2004. The Committee will seek information on the following:

- Strategies for addressing unmet need in the context of growing demand for services
- The effectiveness of Home Care Service processes for managing access to services, across service types
- The extent of consumer input into Home Care Service design, management or delivery of programs, and other mechanisms for addressing service quality
- The implementation by DADHC and Home Care Service of systems and processes to plan, monitor, report on and improve accountability of the service.

On Friday, the Committee will take evidence from the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care, the Council of Social Service of NSW, the Auditor-General and NSW Alzheimer’s Association.

On the following Monday, evidence will be heard from the Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW, Sutherland Shire Community Care Network, the Ethnic Child Care, Family and Community Services Cooperative, Eastern Sydney HACC Forum, Aged and Community Services Association of NSW and the ACT and Carers NSW.

The hearings will be held in Rooms 814/815 in Parliament House from 9.30am on both days.

**Media contact: Noreen Hay MP on [0410 753 1711]**

21 September 2006

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**  
**Schedule for Hearing - HACC Inquiry**  
**22 September 2006**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>
9.30am	Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care	<b>Ms Carol Mills</b> Deputy Director-General  <b>Ms Janet Milligan</b> Director Service Delivery and Planning  <b>Ms Claire Vernon</b> Director, Home Care
<b>10.30am</b>	<b>MORNING TEA</b>	
10.45am	Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (cont)	As above
11.15am	Council of Social Service of NSW	<b>Ms Michelle Burrell</b> Acting Director  <b>Ms Christine Regan</b> Senior Policy Officer
<b>12 noon</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	
1.00pm	NSW Audit Office	<b>Ms Jane Tebbatt</b> Acting Assistant Auditor-General  <b>Mr Tony Whitfield</b> Deputy Auditor-General
1.45pm	Alzheimer's Association	<b>Ms Kristina Vesk</b> Manager, Corporate and Community Relations
<b>2.30pm</b>	<b>Close</b>	

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**  
**Schedule for Hearing - HACC Inquiry**  
**25 September 2006**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>
9.30am	NSW Local Government and Shires Associations	<b>Ms Esther-Tina McGrath</b> Senior Policy Officer <b>Cr Julie Hegarty</b> Local Government Association <b>Cr Chris Manchester</b> Shires Association
10.15am	Sutherland Shire Community Care Network	<b>Ms Melinda Paterson</b> HACC Development Officer <b>Ms Helen Ivory</b> Coordinator Cronulla Neighbour Aid
<b>11.00am</b>	<b>MORNING TEA</b>	
11.30am	Ethnic Child Care, Family and Community Services Cooperative	<b>Ms Vivi Germanos-Koutsounadis</b> Executive Director <b>Mr Sione Wolfram</b> Co-ordinator, EPDP <b>Ms Elen Gore</b> Co-ordinator, ESMAP <b>Ms Deirdre Feryberg</b> Project Officer, EPDP
12.15pm	Eastern Sydney HACC Forum	<b>Ms Chris Bath</b> HACC Development Officer <b>Ms Ada Cheng</b> <b>Ms Jackie Campisi</b> <b>Ms Barbara Kelly</b> <b>Ms Sharon Blunt</b> Forum Members
<b>1.00pm</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	
1.30 pm	Aged and Community Services Association of NSW and ACT	<b>Mr Paul Sadler</b> Chief Executive Officer <b>Ms Pauline Armour</b> Chair <b>Mr Paul Johnson</b> Policy Officer
2.15pm	Carers NSW	<b>Ms Kathy Wood</b> Acting Chief Executive Officer <b>Ms Sally O'Loughlin</b> Policy and Research Team Leader <b>Ms Emily Johnston</b> Policy Officer <b>Ms Sheree Freeburn</b> Aboriginal Carer Co-ordinator
<b>2.45pm</b>	<b>Close</b>	

