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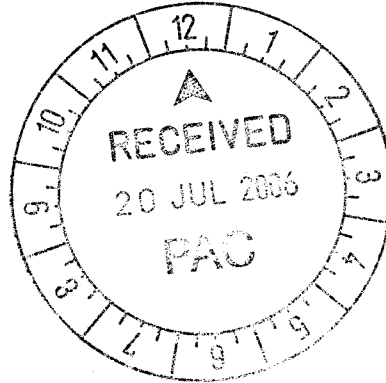
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20 July 2006

Committee Manager
 Public Accounts Committee
 Parliament House
 Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000



Dear Sir/Madam

SUBMISSION TO INQUIRY INTO THE HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM AND THE HOME CARE SERVICE OF NSW BY THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

Wakool Shire consists of several small towns/townships with an ageing population above the state average 26%. There is a lack of any public transport and the towns are situated many kilometres apart.

Home Care services have been managed by three co-ordinators all of whom operate from outside the Shire. The service was also managed in different health regions. Recently this was changed to two home help co-ordinators one based at Deniliquin and one based at Balranald. This has resulted in a scarcity of home help and home checkups and mainly, telephone assessments which are far from satisfactory at times.

Wakool Shire has a very efficient HACC Service with three part-time co-ordinators working in three of the major towns in the Shire, ie locally situated and available to residents. The service presently provides transport assistance, respite care, meals on wheels and home maintenance. Volunteer duties assist with transport. It would appear to be more appropriate for the Home Care Services to be integrated into the HACC Services run by the Wakool Shire provided that administration and all costs were paid by the Department. This has been done successfully in Victoria. There appears to be major short-falls in the amount of home care available to Shire residents particularly in the Western section of the Shire. In some cases, Home Care is not always available when needed and residents go on a waiting list. This defeats the purpose of supporting aged residents in their own home.

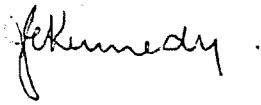
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Elderly residents are living longer, becoming frailer and need more care as they age. The area is attracting more retirees along the Murray River area. It would seem that the elderly population will increase. It is, therefore, suggested that home care could be managed more efficiently if integrated into Councils Home & Community Care Program.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our opinion.

Yours faithfully



COUNCILLOR JAN KENNEDY

for C

GENERAL MANAGER

th/Jaw

cc Local Government Association