



## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

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

The Public Accounts Committee will take evidence from a key organisation and from the main Government agency involved in the Home and Community Care Program (HACC) on Wednesday 18 and Wednesday 25 October announced the Committee Chair, Noreen Hay MP.

“The hearings are an important part of the Committee’s 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 supports services that 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 Wednesday 18 October, the Committee will take evidence from the Aboriginal Community Care Gathering Committee, a group of nominated and regionally representative community care workers whose role it is to advance community care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across the State.

On the following Wednesday, 25 October, further evidence will be heard from the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care.

The hearings will be held in Rooms 814/815 in Parliament House from 9.15am on both days.

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17 October 2006

