



Health & Ageing Committee to inquire into dementia early diagnosis and intervention

An inquiry into dementia early diagnosis and intervention will be conducted by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health and Ageing, Committee Chair and Member for Hindmarsh Mr Steve Georganas MP announced today.

Under the terms of reference the Committee will focus on how early diagnosis and intervention of dementia can:

- improve quality of life and assist people with dementia to remain independent for as long as possible;
- increase opportunities for continued social engagement and community participation for people with dementia,
- help people with dementia and their carers plan for their futures, including organising their financial and legal affairs and preparing for longer-term or more intensive care requirements; and
- how best to deliver awareness and communication on dementia and dementia-related services into the community

In launching the inquiry Mr Georganas noted: 'In 2011 there were an estimated 280,000 Australians with dementia. With 1600 new cases identified each week this number is growing rapidly. Dementia is already the single greatest cause of disability for Australian's aged over 65 years, and is now acknowledged to be the third leading cause of death among Australians after heart disease and stroke.'

'With population ageing, the number of Australians with dementia is predicted to reach almost 1 million by 2050, making the inquiry's focus on early diagnosis and intervention all the more important.' he added.

The Committee seeks submissions to the inquiry from interested individuals and organisations. Submissions, preferably by e-mail to haa.reps@aph.gov.au, should be received by **2 May 2012**.

Further information on the Committee's inquiry, including the full terms of reference and more details on how to lodge a submission are now available on the Committee's website at: www.aph.gov.au/haa

For media comment, please contact Ms Hannah Frank from the Office of Steve Georganas MP on 0419 849 048.

For all other enquiries, please contact the Committee Secretariat by phone on (02) 6277 4145 or visit the Committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/haa.