



Dementia inquiry focuses on service delivery

Recognising that dementia is a growing issue for Queensland with a projected four-fold increase in the number of residents with the disease, health service providers will discuss strategies for improved diagnosis and treatment of dementia at a public hearing in Brisbane on 1 August 2012.

The House of Representatives Health and Ageing Committee will hear from Queensland Health about initiatives for early intervention and service delivery for persons with dementia which they outlined in a submission to the committee's inquiry into the benefits of early diagnosis and intervention of dementia.

Among the initiatives aimed at enabling early diagnosis is the proposed expansion of diagnostic tools such as the Mini Mental State Examination and the Kimberley Indigenous Cognitive Assessment tool. Queensland Health also proposes an increase in its State-based Dementia Behaviour Management Advisory Service to further assist with the management of challenging behaviours displayed by some dementia sufferers.

The committee will also hear from Professor Philip Morris who runs a memory clinic to assist persons with dementia monitor the inevitable cognitive decline that is associated with the disease. Professor Morris believes that decline in cognitive function can be slowed through the principles used in chronic disease management and is calling for a multidisciplinary approach to care.

Committee Chair, Steve Georganas said the public hearing will enable the committee to hear from a number of private sector organisations and individuals who have developed programs to help people with dementia and their carers.

"The committee recognises the importance of ensuring that carers are well equipped to manage a range of circumstances which they may encounter while caring for a person with dementia," Mr Georganas said.

PROGRAM

9:00am	Frontline Care Solutions (Submission 7)
9:45am	Blue Care (Submission 51)
10:30am	<i>Break</i>
10:45am	Professor Philip Morris (Submission 4)
11:30am	Home Instead Senior Care (Submission 9)
12:15pm	Queensland Health (Submission 23)
1:00pm	<i>Close</i>

VENUE: Seminar Room, The Queensland Brain Institute, Bldg #79, Upland Road, The University of Queensland, Brisbane

All are welcome to attend.

The hearing will be webcast live on: www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament

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.