



JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

Sharon Bird MP
Member for Cunningham

The Hon. Paul Lynch MP
Minister for Ageing
Minister for Disability Services
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

17 February 2010

New dementia day care centre at Fairy Meadow

A new dementia day care centre has opened at Fairy Meadow as a result of funding of \$1.65 million from the Australian and New South Wales governments.

The Anglicare-Chesalon Services-Illawarra Centre is a purpose designed dementia day care centre which replaces a 52 year old building. The new centre, which currently provides support for up to 65 people a week, also incorporates Home and Community Care office space.

NSW Minister for Ageing and Disability Services Paul Lynch said there were more than 73,000 people in New South Wales living with dementia and by 2050 this number would increase to an estimated 227,000.

“Dementia day care centres are one way we are responding to the challenges of an ageing population,” Mr Lynch said.

“These centres provide outings, day trips, support, nursing and allied health services to people with dementia and their carers.”

Minister Lynch said that the grant was provided under the Home and Community Care (HACC) program with Anglicare contributing the land.

HACC delivers affordable and accessible care to help meet the individual needs of older people, younger people with a disability, and their carers which helps them remain independent and in their own homes.

Federal Member for Cunningham, Ms Sharon Bird said “Older Australians tell me that they want to remain independent and in their own homes and communities, close to their friends and families.

“Without Home and Community Care services many people would have to move prematurely into residential care.

“This new dementia day care centre is an example of the concrete steps that the Australian and New South Wales governments are taking to meet the needs of our ageing population.”

“This new centre will help meet the increasing demand for these services in our area,” Ms Bird said.

State Member for Keira David Campbell said Home and Community Care provided an essential service to older people in the community.

“The services it delivers plays a critical role in keeping people independent and importantly, in their own homes,” he said.

In 2009-10 the HACC program will receive funding of around \$1.9 billion nationally, with almost \$1.2 billion of this contributed by the Australian Government.

Last financial year NSW received joint funding of \$546.3 million, of which the Australian Government contributed almost \$327.0 million and the NSW Government \$219.3 million.

In 2007-08, more than 830,000 people across Australia received HACC services.