



THE HON MARK BUTLER MP
Minister for Mental Health and Ageing

SHARON GRIERSON MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

22 July 2011

\$125,412 EXTRA FUNDING FOR NEWCASTLE HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES

More frail, older people and younger people with a disability in Newcastle will be able to remain in their own homes and communities as a result of nearly \$36 million funding for Home and Community Care (HACC) services in NSW.

Federal Minister for Mental Health and Ageing Mark Butler and Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson MP, today announced Newcastle has received \$125,412 to fund services and equipment for four Newcastle community organisations:

- Ethnic Communities Council of Newcastle and Hunter Region
- Novacare Incorporated
- Newcastle Temporary Care Ltd.
- Newcastle Community Transport

The services are funded under the NSW Home and Community Care (HACC) Program – a joint initiative of the Commonwealth and NSW Governments.

“In NSW, the HACC program provides support services for more than 244,000 people every year, including older people, people with a disability and their carers,” Mr Butler said.

“We know that the majority of older Australians would prefer to remain in their own homes and in their community.”

“The boost in HACC funding will increase the quality and number of services provided to people who need everyday assistance to live as independently as possible in their own homes.”

Ms Grierson said, “I warmly welcome this new funding, which will provide invaluable services to the aged community in Newcastle.”

“People want to remain independent, in their own homes and communities, close to friends and family for as long as they can.”

“Local residents who use HACC services will benefit from increased community transport services, case management, respite, social support and home modifications which will help them stay at home rather than move prematurely into residential care,” Ms Grierson said.

The HACC program was established by the Hawke Labor Government in 1985 and has grown from over \$150 million in 1985 to a \$2 billion program in 2010-11, supporting over 800,000 Australians to remain in their homes where they would prefer to be.

“The Federal Labor Government is providing more funding, for more services, to more older Australians than ever before,” Ms Grierson said.

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