



**Sharon Grierson MP**  
Federal Member for Newcastle

**Media Alert**

**12 October 2007**

**Senator McLucas and Sharon Grierson to meet aged care providers in the Hunter**

Senator Jan McLucas, Shadow Minister for Ageing, Disabilities and Carers, and Sharon Grierson MP, Member for Newcastle, will be meeting with aged care stakeholders tomorrow to hear their concerns about aged care services.

"I am looking forward to listening to the issues faced by aged care providers in the Hunter," Senator Jan McLucas said.

"It is clear that the Howard Government has not faced up to its responsibility to provide sufficient aged care beds and services."

On the Government's own figures, the Hunter region needs 353 more aged care beds than it has today.

"It can take months for a frail older person to receive aged care which they desperately need - and it is months of bed time that can then be used for acute patients," Senator McLucas said.

"Labor has outlined as part of its 'New Directions for Older Australians' a plan to provide support for frail older Australians who need aged care.

"In the policy 'Improving the Transition between Hospital and Aged Care' Labor will establish 2000 transition care beds to allow older people to move from hospital to a far more appropriate care setting.

"Further, Labor has announced \$300 million in zero real interest loans to providers to construct or redevelop aged care beds in areas of need.

"This policy addresses the fact that, on any one night, there are about 2300 older people across Australia who are eligible for aged care who are waiting in a hospital simply because they cannot access community care or a residential aged care bed."

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