



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

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NO TIME TO LOSE ON LOCAL DEMENTIA RESOURCES

Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson, today called on the Government uphold its pledge to help fund a Dementia Resource Centre in Newcastle.

Ms Grierson, who is Co-Convenor of Parliamentary Friends of Dementia, was speaking in Parliament ahead of National Dementia Awareness Month, which begins tomorrow.

"In 2001 the former Minister for Ageing, Bronwyn Bishop, made a pledge during a visit to Newcastle that the government would match community fundraising efforts – dollar for dollar – to establish a Dementia Resource Centre in Newcastle," Ms Grierson said.

"I call on the current Minister to uphold that pledge to the people of Newcastle and to support the Hunter Network of Alzheimer's Australia NSW with the completion of a Dementia resource Centre."

"The Hunter Network, in partnership with the local Rotary District 9670 group, has already raised more than \$260,000. Alzheimer's Australia NSW matched this local fundraising, dollar for dollar, so that the Hunter Network had \$520,000 to push ahead with its plans to purchase a building in Newcastle and realise a long held dream."

"The theme for this year's Dementia Awareness Month - *No Time to Lose* - is appropriate given that there are an estimated 212,000 people in Australia with the condition and by 2050 this number is projected to increase to 730,000."

"There are an estimated 10,000 people in the Hunter living with Dementia, with many more undetected cases. A dementia resource centre is needed to support these people and help reduce the incidence of dementia in our region".

"I call on the Federal Government to make good on its commitment to funding for the Dementia Resource Centre in Newcastle."

"There really is *No Time to Lose*."

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