



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle



Media Release

21 September 2004

LABOR TO BOOST DEMENTIA SPENDING

As Co-convenor of Parliamentary Friends of Dementia, Sharon Grierson MP welcomed the World Alzheimer's day announcement that a Latham Labor government will provide \$5 million to develop a National Dementia Strategy and plan for the future needs of people with dementia.

In the Hunter it is estimated that there are more than 10,000 dementia sufferers with many more cases undetected. Labor's announcement to invest in the planning for dementia needs is good news for Newcastle dementia sufferers and their carers.

Lewis Kaplan, CEO of NSW Alzheimer's Australia also welcomed Labor's commitment to the National Dementia Strategy and called for increased funding to dementia research, services and awareness. Research undertaken by Alzheimer Australia shows that early detection and intervention will reduce dementia cases by half annually and generate large savings to the health budget in Australia.

Under the Howard government the needs of people with dementia have been ignored and with no forward planning to address the increasing numbers of people with dementia.

Nationally there are more than 162,000 people with dementia, including 6,600 people under 65 with 'younger' onset dementia. The prevalence of dementia is growing rapidly and is expected to reach the 500,000 mark by 2040.

As a part of the National Dementia Strategy, Labor will prioritise research into prevention and care and future workplace needs. Labor acknowledges that prevention, early intervention and quality care are the keys to future dementia policy.

Today being International Alzheimer's Day it is important to acknowledge the considerable human cost to dementia sufferers and their families.

Sharon Grierson welcomes Labor's investment to ensure that their needs are no longer ignored.

For further information please contact:

Sharon Grierson MP
4926 1555

Newcastle
427 Hunter Street
Newcastle NSW 2300
Ph: 02-4926 1555 Fax: 02-4926 1895
e-mail: Sharon.Grierson.MP@aph.gov.au



Canberra
Suite R2 88
Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600
Ph: 02-6277 4221 Fax: 02-6277 8461
Web Page: www.newcastle-alp.com