



Amanda Rishworth MP

Member for Kingston

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW FUNDING FOR Community-Based Respite and Carers in Southern Adelaide Region

A one-off Australian Government grant has been delivered to a number of projects in Southern Adelaide. The Rudd Government has committed a total of \$22,280 to strengthen Southern Adelaide carer services.

The successful organisations are:

- Aged Care and Housing Group Inc
- James Brown memorial Trust

The funding provided will help develop services in the following areas:

- Provide an area for guest to prepare BBQ lunches while attending day respite;
- Improving the confidence and skills of respite workers in supporting people with dementia to pressure meaningful activities ;
- Provide respite workers with a tool to promote communications;
- Funding to purchase of portable computer to provide easy access to data for staff operating the overnight respite program at a location which is separate from the organisation; and
- Funding to promote their service in the Guardian Messenger

The funding is part of \$6.9 million in grants the Rudd Government is providing – giving certainty and extra resources to community-based respite and carer support services.

The grants will be distributed by the Australian Government under the *National Respite for Carers Program* and the *Commonwealth Carelink Program*.

Amanda Rishworth, Federal Member for Kingston said she was delighted at the additional funding being provided to support the carers in the region.

“This new funding will make a great difference to carers in Southern Adelaide, Amanda said.

“These programs help support carers in what is often a challenging and difficult role.”

The \$6.9 million announced today - is in addition to the announcement two weeks ago that will see \$420 million, plus indexation of approximately \$18 million - provided to 555 respite and carer support services over the next three years.

The respite and Carelink programs are part of a range of government-funded programs designed to support older Australians and their carers.

Facts

A Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 2003 showed that 2.6 million carers were providing assistance to people who needed help because of disability or age.

Just over half (54 per cent) of all carers were women. Women were also more likely (71 per cent) to be primary carers. Of those providing care, 1 million (39 per cent) were in the 35-54 year age range.