



4 February 2010

DEMENTIA DAY CARE CENTRE OPEN AT WILLOUGHBY - \$3.6 MILLION

The Australian and NSW governments are preparing for an ageing population in the Willoughby area with the opening today of a \$3.6 million dementia day care centre.

The dementia day care centre – one of 16 to be opened as part of the joint Commonwealth and NSW Government funded Home and Community Care (HACC) program – was opened today by NSW Minister for Ageing Paul Lynch.

Federal Minister for Ageing Justine Elliot said the Commonwealth had contributed about \$1 million with the NSW Government dedicating about \$600,000 towards the construction of the centre.

The building includes a lounge, areas for dining, activity and quiet areas as well as a secure landscaped garden and easy access for people with a disability.

The building includes two separate centres, one of which will accommodate Catholic Community Services HACC program which was previously delivered from a church hall.

“Dementia day care centres are one way we are responding to the challenges of an ageing population by providing outings, day trips, support, nursing and health services to people with dementia and their carers,” Mr Lynch said.

He said the HACC program delivered affordable and accessible care to help meet the individual needs of older people, younger people with a disability and their carers.

Minister Elliot said older Australians had made it clear they wanted to remain independent and in their own homes and communities.

“Without Home and Community Care services, many people would have to move prematurely into residential care.

“This new dementia care centre is an example of all levels of government and the community working together to take concrete steps to deliver more services for older Australians,” Minister Elliot said.

Willoughby City Council contributed land and services worth about \$1.87 million while Catholic Community Services, Baptist Community Services and the Chatswood Rotary Club also contributed \$50,000.

HACC facts:

- This financial year, the HACC program will receive funding of about \$1.9 billion nationally with the Commonwealth providing \$1.2 billion

