



## **THE HON JUSTINE ELLIOT MP**

### **Minister for Ageing**

#### **MEDIA RELEASE**

**24 November 2008**

#### **Glenwood Gardens**

The Australian Government has offered support for a financial-business adviser to Glenwood Gardens – in the NSW New England Highlands – to assess the long term viability of the facility.

Glenwood Gardens is a 51-place aged care service located in Glen Innes, NSW with 37 residents currently at the service. Due to ageing in place, a number now have high care needs.

This evening (November 24), a residents' meeting is to be held by the facility to update residents on the situation at the nursing home. Senior representatives of the Department of Health and Ageing are scheduled to attend.

On October 3, the Department of Health and Ageing placed Glenwood Gardens under sanction. This was after serious risks to residents were identified, including:

- Inadequate nutrition and hydration;
- Medication management;
- Pain management; and
- Clinical care.

As part of the Government's response, a range of measures were put in place including:

- Accreditation Agency assessors were on-site daily until the serious risk was mitigated;
- Commonwealth Nursing Officers visited the home over the weekend of 4-6 October;
- Appointment of specialist Nurse Adviser for six months;
- Requiring staff training in a range of clinical care; and
- No Commonwealth funding for any new residents for six months.

The Department of Health and Ageing advises that serious risks were mitigated by October 9 and the home is making progress in addressing the remaining non-compliance.

The accreditation period has been reduced by 12 months to now expire on September 2, 2009.

"This is about the protection and the welfare of frail and aged Australians," Minister for Ageing, Mrs Justine Elliot said.

"The NSW office of the Department of Health and Ageing will work with the board of Glenwood Gardens and the NSW industry peak body to assist the nursing home."

For more information, contact Mrs Elliot's office on (02) 6277 7280