



## THE HON JUSTINE ELLIOT MP

### Minister for Ageing

#### MEDIA RELEASE

26 September 2008

#### **Transparency – independent assessment of standards – Rosden Private Nursing Home report released**

The Department of Health and Ageing today released the 38-page Report of Major Findings on the review audit into Rosden Private Nursing Home.

The report outlines the recommendations of the independent assessors to the Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency on the areas of non-compliance at the home with Aged Care Accreditation Standards.

The full assessment is available on:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ageing-rescare-sanctions-sancudvic.htm#rosden>

The Minister for Ageing, Mrs Justine Elliot said “in the interest of transparency and openness, the Report to the independent Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency has been released”.

“We recognise that this is a major step, but it is important family members get a clear picture about the facility.

“We also recognise it is a distressing and upsetting time for family and residents – but this is about the care and welfare of frail aged Australians. Of the 55 high care residents, 15 are over the age of 90.”

Mrs Elliot said the Accreditation Agency assessors had also revised their recommendations on the number of non-compliant outcomes from 17 to 20 – out of a possible 44 outcomes – and previously identified serious risk to the health, safety and well being of residents.

As for appeal rights, the approved provider will have the opportunity to comment on the finding, prior to a final decision by the Agency regarding the home’s accreditation status.

Yesterday (September 25) the Department of Health and Ageing issued an Instrument Under Subsection 86-9(1) of the *Aged Care Act 1997* to allow for the public release of the Statement of Major Findings.

The issues of concern at Rosden Private Nursing Home include:

- Privacy and space requirements;
- Inadequate toilet, shower and bathroom facilities for the number of residents which are also being shared by male and female residents at the same time, impacting on their privacy and dignity;

- Safety issues including potential fire hazards; potential tripping and choking hazards; and
- Dirty communal bathrooms, floors, walls, chairs and equipment.

In response, the Australian Government has taken tough action, including:

- Daily visits by the Accreditation Agency;
- Commonwealth Nursing Officers visiting the nursing home twice daily;
- Revocation of all places at the nursing home with effect from midday on October 1;
- Relocating all residents – in consultation with their families and other nursing homes;
- Hiring of a relocation expert – Tender Living Care – to assist family and residents;
- Department has a **1800 078 709** free number for residents and their families; and
- No Commonwealth subsidies for new residents.

Earlier this year, Mrs Justine Elliot announced 3,000 unannounced visits by the Accreditation Agency to improve the quality of aged care in Australia. Concerns about care at Rosden Private Nursing Home were identified on an unannounced visit

From July 1 to September 17, there have been 270 unannounced visits by the Accreditation Agency in Victoria alone.

There are 11 nursing homes in Australia under sanction out of nearly 3,000 homes. In Victoria, there are currently five nursing homes under sanction.

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