



THE HON JUSTINE ELLIOT MP

Minister for Ageing

MEDIA RELEASE

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More Aged Care Beds and Jobs for Tweed and Gold Coast: Construction of New Dementia Wing

The Minister for Ageing, Mrs Justine Elliot today officially visited the construction site of a new \$8.6 million dementia-wing at **Bupa Care Services' Banora Point** aged care facility on the NSW far North Coast.

The new wing will add 41 more dementia-specific places and will bring – upon completion – the total of aged care beds to 97.

The aged facility is also expected to expand its workforce from 40 people to 73 full-time positions.

Construction began in January and it is scheduled to be completed in October. There are currently 35 people working on the construction site. Almost all of the workers are locals.

Mrs Elliot visited the site to congratulate Bupa Care staff and the construction workers at the Tweed Heads South facility. The construction company is Hansen Yuncken.

“This is an exciting project. It will provide more local jobs and additional aged care beds,” Mrs Elliot said.

“Australians now have the longest life expectancy in the English-speaking world. This is about preparing for our nation’s ageing population.

“We want to ensure that we have the aged care places ready when people want to leave their homes and enter aged care.

“It is reassuring to see organisations like Bupa continuing to invest and support construction in aged care during the current global financial recession,” Mrs Elliot said.

Bupa is an international health and care organisation which began in London in 1947.

Bupa’s aged care arm, Bupa Care Services entered the Australian market in December 2007. It also operates aged care homes in the United Kingdom, Spain and New Zealand.

Bupa Care Services is the second largest private aged care provider in Australia with 47 facilities across New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and the ACT.

It has a total of 3,942 places; of those 3,059 are high care and 883 are low care places.

Australian Government aged and community funding

Over the next four years, Australian government spending on aged and community care would reach record levels of more than \$41 billion -- with more than \$29 billion of that on residential aged care alone.

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