



THE HON JUSTINE ELLIOT MP

Minister for Ageing

MEDIA RELEASE

2 April 2009

More Aged Care Beds for the Gold Coast

The Minister for Ageing, Mrs Justine Elliot, today officially opened a new nursing home providing care for 161 older people in the Gold Coast suburb of Labrador.

Blue Care's 'Labrador Gardens Aged Care Facility' is part of a larger complex that when completed will also include 130 retirement living units and 30 serviced apartments.

This builds on the more than 3,600 aged care places on the Gold Coast, provided by over 50 aged care homes. This is in addition to almost 900 community care packages, helping older people on the Gold Coast remain in their own homes.

Blue Care plays a vital role in caring for older Australians throughout Queensland, with more than 5000 people a day being cared for in their aged care homes.

"I congratulate the staff and volunteers for their hard work in the development and completion of this project," Mrs Elliot said.

"I also officially welcome all of the residents to their new home," Mrs Elliot said.

When all stages of the new complex are completed the development will have a recreation centre with café, bar, gym, hairdresser, swimming pool, landscaped barbecue areas and an auditorium.

It will also include a Blue Nursing service and the entire complex will be serviced with secure basement car parking.

"More than a quarter of the Gold Coast City's population is aged 55 years and over," Mrs Elliot said.

"The Gold Coast like many parts of Australia is facing the challenges of an ageing population.

"The Rudd Government is planning for the future and expanding existing services in both residential and community care.

"The Federal Government's financial support for Queensland aged care providers will total \$7.4 billion over the next four years," Mrs Elliot said.

Over the next four years, funding for aged and community care would reach record levels of more than \$41 billion – with \$29.4 billion of that on nursing homes and hostels alone.

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