



**Senator the Hon Santo Santoro**  
**Australian Government**  
**Minister for Ageing**

**The Hon Gavin Jennings MLC**  
**Victorian Government**  
**Minister for Aged Care**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **\$24.9m to expand Victorian Home and Community Care**

Extra funding of \$24.9 million will expand Home and Community Care services for frail older Victorians, younger people with disabilities and their carers.

The Australian Government Minister for Ageing, Senator Santo Santoro, and Victorian Aged Care Minister Gavin Jennings today announced a boost for some 500 Victorian HACC agencies.

The Commonwealth and state and territory governments jointly fund the HACC program, which in Victoria totals \$440 million in 2006-07.

“Home and Community Care services are vital to the quality of life for many frail older people and younger people with a disability,” Senator Santoro said.

“They provide basic support services that help people to maintain their independence and live with dignity in their own homes.”

Senator Santoro said that, in 2006-07, the Australian Government would provide more than \$928 million to HACC services across the country. If all state and territory governments matched the Commonwealth Government’s offer, a total of \$1.5 billion would be available nationally.

Mr Jennings said the extra funding would provide 478,000 more hours of nursing, allied health, domestic assistance, personal care and delivered meals to vulnerable Victorians.

“This includes an extra 119,000 hours domestic assistance, 82,000 hours personal care and nearly as much again for assessment and allied health services such as physiotherapy,” he said.

“About 220,000 Victorians receive HACC services through some 500 local councils, health services and non-government agencies.”

Mr Jennings said the Victorian Government contributed \$55.7 million above its requirements under the joint program to help ensure that HACC services were widely available.

“We are committed to improving funding equity between regions, consolidating and restocking basic services and improving access to services for Indigenous and ethnic Victorians,” he said.

“Our priorities include \$15.7 million more to expand basic HACC services, \$700,000 more to enhance access for ethnic groups to mainstream services and \$1 million more to boost services and access for Indigenous communities,” Mr Jennings said.

**Enquiries: [enquiries@health.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@health.gov.au)**