



THE HON JUSTINE ELLIOT MP

Minister for Ageing

MEDIA RELEASE

24 February 2009

Energy Efficient Homes Package – Nursing Homes

Minister for Ageing, Mrs Justine Elliot today urged eligible nursing home and hostel operators to apply for solar hot water and insulation rebates under the Australian Government's Energy Efficient Homes package.

Mrs Elliot issued the call to nursing homes and hostels.

Guidelines and how to apply for the rebates will be available from 26 February by calling **1800 808 571** or at the website: www.environment.gov.au/energyefficiency

"I urge nursing home operators who have older buildings to use this opportunity to improve their energy efficiency. Insulation will increase comfort for residents and save nursing home operators money, as well as helping tackle climate change," Mrs Elliot said.

However, Mrs Elliot expressed her disappointment that the Coalition including the Shadow Minister, Mrs Margaret May had voted against the measures and the overall stimulus package.

Under the Energy Efficient Homes package, the Solar Hot Water Rebate has been increased from \$1000 to \$1600, with the previous means test removed, and the rebate for landlords to insulate rental properties has been increased from \$500 to \$1000.

Insulation is typically the most cost effective way to improve a home's energy efficiency.

Although all newly-built homes must be insulated, many older homes – up to 40 per cent of Australia's housing stock – remain un-insulated.

Insulation rebates are available to eligible nursing homes and hostels through the rental rebate, and also to owner-occupier households. Solar hot water rebates are also available to eligible owner-occupied households and tenants.

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