

**Aged & Community Services Australia
National Conference , 17-20 September Gold Coast
'aged care the place to be: our clients our business
our people'**



MEDIA NOTIFICATION

Immediate use and referral

ATTENTION:	News, Aged, Health, Education/Training , Employment rounds
WHERE:	Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre, Conrad Jupiters
WHEN:	Sunday 17- Wednesday 20 September 2006

IMPORTANCE AND NEWS VALUE:

- **Aged care facing cost, staffing and bed availability pressures**
- **Consumers want more choice in care services quality and cost- how they can get it?**
- **Will we have enough workers and services? What are current policies- are they on the right track and is there enough money?**

HIGHLIGHTS:

Sunday 17 September- two Pre-conference Workshops: Retirement Living: the Ageing Village; Rural and remote services and care- how to stay viable, provide care and work with other services. Rt Hon Ian Sinclair chairing rural and remote.

Monday 18 September- Our Clients: Official Conference Opening by Senator Santo Santoro- Minister for Ageing, who will make policy announcements on services; International Keynote speaker Dr Robyn Stone- formerly President Clinton's adviser on Ageing, now Executive Director of the Institute for the Future of Aging Services in Washington US, will tell us about Consumer Directed Care – how we can choose what type of care we get, when we get it, who provides it and how it's paid for, followed by panel session with Carers and Alzheimer's reps; major sessions and policy announcements on care, culture and language barriers and opportunities for ageing people with migrant backgrounds plus indigenous care news; since when did growing older become a welfare problem? The case for continuing independence and decision making by older Australians; and older people and what they want- Dr Diane Olsberg from University of NSW will report on a national study that tells us what they want, as opposed to what's on offer.

Tuesday 19 September- Our Business: Aged care- facts, figures, finances, funding - does it have a future? Mike Woods and Rosalie McLachlan from Productivity Commission will report on their extensive study of industry, and two industry planners will report on studies of aged care financial operations; and Mark McCrindle, one of Australia's foremost social researchers reports on what boomers want- attitudes to retirement and relocation.

Wednesday 20 September- Our People: Will there be an aged and community care workforce for our ageing population? Casualisation of workforce, training school students in aged care, and general labour, recruitment, training and retention issues; Senator Jan McLucas, Opposition Spokesperson on Ageing and Disability will also speak.

**CONTACT: Megan Stoyles for media interviews, speaker details: 0408 147 829.
Full program at www.agedcare.org.au**