



COMBINED PENSIONERS AND SUPERANNUANTS ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC.

Founded 1931.

Serving pensioners of all ages, superannuants and low-income retirees.

Consumer Protection Awards – 2002, 2003, 2004

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MEDIA RELEASE

Still not enough places in residential aged care

“The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare’s (AIHW) report on the increase in residential aged care places is not the great news the Australian Government thinks it is” said June Gabriel, spokesperson for Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association of NSW Inc (CPSA).

“It’s almost as if the Australian Government thinks it has the aged care problem solved. Nothing could be further from the truth.

“The AIHW report, *Residential Aged Care in Australia 2002-03*, shows a modest increase in places per 1,000 people aged 70 years and over – 82.8 places this year as opposed to 81.6 last year.

“The fundamental problems of aged care including funding, workplace issues and the condition of many facilities are still barely touched on.

“Waiting lists are still too long. Applicants are finding that by the time they get into a facility they need more intensive nursing home care than when they were originally assessed for hostel care. Some facilities are not up to scratch in terms of fire safety and other occupational health and safety requirements. There are some where neglect or outright abuse has been reported. And there are still not enough staff – especially fully trained nurses.

“The Australian Government’s triumphalism has no basis in reality. It is merely election propaganda. And the fact that a Senate Committee will be conducting a major inquiry into aged care tells that something is not right.

“Let’s get real about aged care. Smug satisfaction from the Government is no way to address the serious problems nursing home residents and their families face” said Ms Gabriel.

Contact: Ms June Gabriel 02 9281 3588