



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Windsor congratulates and thanks PM and State Premiers on Young People in Nursing Homes position

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has congratulated and thanked the Prime Minister John Howard and the State Premiers for the positive position on the issue of young people in nursing homes taken by them at the recent Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting.

Mr Windsor was speaking to the Appropriation Bill (No 1) 2005-2006 Bill – the Budget Bill – during its consideration in detail in the Parliament last night.

“The COAG comment about young people in nursing homes is very encouraging particularly for the group being co-ordinated by Challenge Armidale which is working on developing a model to put to the government for support.

It really gives the group something to work towards knowing that it is on the radar for attention,” Mr Windsor said.

The following is an excerpt from his speech on this matter.

APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 2005-2006 Consideration in Detail

Mr WINDSOR (New England) (8.01 p.m.)—I rise if it is appropriate—and please inform me if it is not—to congratulate the Prime Minister and the state premiers on a recent initiative. At a recent Council of Australian Governments meeting, significant priority was given for the first time to the issue of young people with disabilities who are currently ‘inappropriately’ housed. I would like to place on record my congratulations to all of those involved—to the Prime Minister, who led the delegation, and to the states—for recognising those who need a little more help than they have perhaps been getting in the past. I do not mean that that is the fault of anybody, but I think there is growing recognition that people with disabilities are going to grow older than they used to, in the majority of cases, and that in many cases they are inappropriately housed and require other services so that they can be more appropriately cared for.

I would urge the minister in the chair to convey my thanks to the Prime Minister but also to encourage the Prime Minister and those in the appropriate portfolios to really take this issue forward and address it. It is not one that will be a terribly expensive one to address in terms of the budgetary processes in total, but in my view, and I think in the view of many, it is an issue that really passes judgment on us as a parliament and on Australians as a society, as to how we care for people who have disabilities.

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