



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Windsor WELCOMES support for young carers

Young carers in the New England electorate will continue to have a support service with the announcement by the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Jenny Macklin of a further three years funding to the New England Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centre with an amount of \$125,460 for 2010-11 plus indexation for the following two years.

Mr Windsor has welcomed the Minister's announcement that recognises the need for support of these young people through the Australian Government's "Young Carers Respite and Information Services Program".

"Most people in the community are unaware of the fact that there are young people who must care for older people, in particular parents or their younger brothers and sisters.

"This puts a lot of pressure on these young people and impacts on their ability to complete their own education and achieve their potential.

"The New England Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centre provides these young people with access to respite services and age appropriate support which includes educational, social and recreational support such as time off to study for exams and assignments, tutoring, skills development and other activities particularly during school holidays and I thank the Centre for their commitment to helping these young people.

"I also thank the Government for their continuing support of the service and very importantly I thank these young people who having had this responsibility placed upon them, have risen to the task of caring for others at the same time as undertaking their own personal development.

"A very tough assignment for those so young," Mr Windsor said.

The service that covers the New England North West area can be accessed by calling 1800 052 222.

For further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080 or 0427 66 8868