



THE HON JUSTINE ELLIOT MP
MINISTER FOR AGEING

27 May 2008

Federal Government appoints clinical nurse adviser team for Bridgewater Aged Care Services and identifies 480 potentially vacant nursing home beds

The Federal Government has appointed and will fund a clinical nurse adviser team to help the administrator of Bridgewater Aged Care Service to ensure the quality of care for its 107 residents. They commenced at the home today.

The Department has also developed a relocation plan, should that become necessary, so that residents could be moved in a safe and orderly way.

The Department has identified 480 potentially vacant beds -- if the residents and their family wish to re-locate. The Department is in discussion with providers about availability (The Department has identified about 80 vacant beds in the immediate vicinity and another 400 in surrounding areas.)

On Friday, May 23, Stephen Longley, David McEvoy and Tim Cuming of Pricewaterhousecoopers (PWC) were appointed administrators for Bridgewater Aged Care.

Minister for Ageing, Mrs Justine Elliot said: "The welfare and well being of residents is my primary concern. They come first and that is why we acted."

"Residents and their families can be guaranteed that they will receive appropriate care and their bonds will be protected. We guarantee residents are looked after and their families have peace of mind," Mrs Elliot said.

The Department has set up a dedicated telephone number – 1-800-078-709 - for family members and residents to provide information and assistance. Departmental case managers have been assigned to families and are in the process of making contact with them to provide information and assistance.

The Department stands ready to provide further financial assistance, if required, for the care of residents including care and support staff, cleaning, catering and other activities that may be necessary to meet residents' needs.

The administrators are responsible for the operation of the aged care home and ensuring that residents continue to receive the appropriate quality of care.

In the event that the approved provider is unable to refund resident's accommodation bonds they will be protected by the Government's Accommodation Bond Guarantee Scheme.

This Scheme is automatically activated if the approved provider becomes insolvent and there are accommodation bonds overdue for refund.

Similarly, employees' entitlements are also protected under the General Employee Entitlements and Redundancy Scheme.

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