



Media Release

Josh Frydenberg MP

Federal Member for Kooyong

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CELEBRATING CARER'S WEEK IN KOOYONG

Today Josh Frydenberg, the Federal Member for Kooyong, visited Alzheimer's Australia's Victorian Headquarters in Hawthorn to celebrate Carer's Week which runs from 16-22 October 2011.

During his visit Mr Frydenberg heard first hand about the critical work carried out by Alzheimer's Australia and its National Dementia Helpline, which is staffed by volunteer carers with the support of specialist advisers. The helpline handles over 4200 calls a year with trained volunteers spending an average of 20 minutes on each call providing invaluable information and assistance to people with dementia, their families and their carers.

There are over 2.6 million carers in Australia performing critical duties in a range of areas including aged care, disability support, mental health and palliative care. "Carers often provide many years of selfless voluntary service and their community involvement deserves to be fully acknowledged. Carer's Week provides us with the opportunity to focus on carers and recognise their outstanding contribution to the wellbeing and betterment of our local community" Mr Frydenberg said.

"With an estimate that more than 150,000 paid and unpaid carers will be needed in the next 15 years, this need is significant. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics in Kooyong there are currently more than 11,000 carers providing unpaid care and support. In time this number will only grow" Mr Frydenberg said.

The dementia statistics alone indicate the increased pressure that will come to bear on our carers. It is estimated that 269,000 Australians live with dementia, with that number estimated to approach 1 million by 2050. With 1500 new cases of dementia every week in Australia, the burden on the families, friends and carers of those involved is increasing significantly. "With an estimated 2000 dementia sufferers in Kooyong and with that number expected to double in the next 30 years, I also recently took the opportunity to speak in Parliament about this important issue. With dementia sufferers and their carers requiring increasing support it is incumbent on the Gillard Government to undertake new and substantial initiatives. So far they have failed this test" Mr Frydenberg said.