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## A•S•U MEDIA RELEASE

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**Tuesday 20 April, 2010**

### **ASU still wary of Federal takeover of HACC system**

ASU Branch Secretary Brian Parkinson warned that a Federal takeover of home and community care (HACC) services would not only see a slide of the quality delivered to the hundreds of thousands of Victorians who are currently in need of care, but also put the employment standards of Victorian HACC workers in jeopardy.

Parkinson is alarmed at a letter from Minister for Ageing Justine Elliot, who wrote to the ASU's Branch Secretary in response to the thousands of emails sent to the MP in opposition of a federally-run HACC service.

"The Minister clearly states in the letter that if the Federal government did take over HACC services, current delivery of service (through local government) would continue for two years. What happens after that? Justine states that nothing would change industrially, but when contracts for home care are put out for tender, how would they control pay and conditions of HACC workers in Victoria? We are talking about the jobs of 6000 people here," said Parkinson.

"Figures clearly show that non-local government providers in Victoria pay their staff between seven and nine per cent less than local government employees. Furthermore, there have been no guarantees by the Federal government that they will be contributing the \$160 million in extra funds currently provided by the State and local governments towards HACC services, which is one of the reasons why Victoria's current system works so well."

"The government reneged on a 2008 agreement, saying they would consult with local government before considering future reforms to aged care. How can we believe them when they say that home and community care workers and those receiving the care wouldn't be worse off under a federally-run HACC service?"

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