



A•S•U MEDIA RELEASE

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Australian Services Union slams Rudd over possible HACC takeover

Australian Services Union Branch Secretary Brian Parkinson has urged the Federal government not to disrupt Victoria's home and community care (HACC) system by reneging on a 2008 COAG commitment to consult with local government before considering future reforms to aged care.

"State and local governments contribute an additional \$163 million to HACC services on top of their current funding arrangement with the Federal government. The commitment to maintaining the current arrangement must continue if services to the elderly are to remain at a level currently enjoyed by those in need. Victoria is the only state where the model is run by local governments, and the ASU believes that this provides the best service."

"In Victoria, local government is a major funding contributor and the largest service provider, delivering 80 per cent of HACC services in the state. This system provides the best service to clients, which we fear will drop if HACC services become federally funded. Equally as important is the fact that many carers employed through the current system would lose their jobs if the Federal government took control from current local government providers," said Parkinson, who announced that thousands of jobs will be on the line if a Federal HACC takeover becomes a reality.

"What the Federal government haven't taken into account is that their decisions may impact on up to 6000 local government employees who perform and maintain a good service for the elderly in over 200,000 homes across the state. The ASU will not support nor accept any government who affects the employment of our members in the way that has been proposed by the government via the media."

"With the Federal election looming, we will do everything in our power to protect our members' employment in this state. The campaign starts today."

"The ASU applauds the Victorian State government for continuing their withholding support of the new aged care plan until the Federal government accept the issues that will face thousands of Victorians, including those who require care and those delivering the care."

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