



# Julie Bishop

## Curtin Correspondence



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Autumn Edition - Newsletter from The Hon. Julie Bishop MP, Federal Member for Curtin, Minister for Ageing

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Hon Julie Bishop at the site of the extensions to the Wearne complex with (l-r) Charles Murphy, Curtin Aged Persons Homes Inc and Rob Spencer and Yasmin Naglazas, Churches of Christ Homes and Community Services Inc. Mr Peter Olson, Mayor, Town of Claremont and Dr Bruce Moore, Mayor, Town of Mosman Park in background

## Greater Aged Care Choices for Older Australians

Julie Bishop recently visited Wearne Hostel for the Aged in Cottesloe, which has received approval to offer Extra Service in 38 of its low care places.

"Older Australians are increasingly expressing a desire for aged care services which meet their individual needs as they age," Ms Bishop said.

"Extra Service increases diversity and choice in the aged care sector by allowing people to make additional payments to receive additional services, such as entertainment and leisure services."

"The 300 new Extra Service places announced for Western Australia on 8 April

2004 means there are now more than 750 Extra Services places available in this State."

"The Australian Government's national legislated accreditation system ensures all Australians have access to high quality aged care. Extra Service status also encourages innovations in residential aged care by providing an incentive for aged care providers to improve the standard of care on a continuous basis."

Curtin Aged Persons Homes Inc is the approved provider for Wearne Hostel and Riversea Hostel and since October 2000 Churches of Christ Homes have managed the two facilities.



## From Julie's desk

Since coming to office in 1996 the Australian Government has had a vision for a world class aged care sector that delivers high quality, accessible and affordable services that meet the individual needs of older Australians. Through this vision the Australian Government has already delivered:

- **A 100 per cent increase in funding for aged care, from \$3 billion in 1995/96 to \$6 billion in 2003-04;**
- **More than 55,600 new aged care places;**
- **The first ever national legislated standards to improve the quality of care and accommodation;**
- **Substantial increases in services, such as meals on wheels and community nursing, to meet the wishes of older people to remain in their homes as they age. This includes a**

**more than 820 per cent increase in funding for Community Aged Care Packages, which provide low-level care at home;**

- **A five-fold increase in support for carers, through more respite services, counselling and advice.**

Before the Howard Government's reforms there was a 10,000 aged care place shortage, and despite an independent report finding that some nursing homes delivered poor quality care, there had been a failure to introduce national legislated care standards.

The Australian Government is currently considering the recommendations of the Hogan Review of Pricing Arrangements in Residential Aged Care and will be responding in the context of the May 2004 Budget.

The Review has been assisted by an Industry and Consumer Reference Group, made up of a diverse range of providers, consumer representatives and aged care workforce representatives.

I look forward to making further announcements in the aged care portfolio over the next few months, and welcome inquiries to my office.

*Julie Bishop*

### BOOKS ALIVE 2004



Federal Minister for the Arts, Senator The Hon Rod Kemp (4th from left) met with four of the 2004 Books Alive authors Robert Drewe, Belinda Alexandra, Gabrielle Lord and Duncan Ball.

Books Alive 2004, the biggest promotion of books and reading ever undertaken in Australia, will this year run from Saturday 31 July to Sunday 15 August.

This follows last year's very successful Books Alive campaign which put more than 280,000 brand new books into readers' hands and put all Books Alive authors – Australian authors – on the top ten list for the duration of the two week campaign.

The campaign is part of the Australian Government's Book Industry Assistance Plan which is administered by the Australia Council for the Arts. The 2004 titles will be assisted by a publicity campaign and a national touring program of all seven authors:

- 'White Gardenia' by **Belinda Alexandra;**
- 'Spiking the Girl' by **Gabrielle Lord**
- 'The Shark Net' by **Robert Drewe**
- 'Blacktown' by **Shane Weaver**
- 'Shiver' by **Nikki Gemmell**
- 'Au Revoir' by **Mary Moody**
- 'Selby the Wonder Dog' containing 2 titles 'Selby Splits' and 'Selby Surfs' by **Duncan Ball**



### MORE SUPPORT FOR SKILLED AGED CARE WORKERS

The Australian Government is providing more than \$21 million over four years to help nurses and personal care staff in smaller aged care facilities to improve their skills.

"Since the Support for Aged Care Workers program began two years ago, the Australian Government has provided \$6.4 million for 38 programs to train 4400 staff in more than 400 aged care facilities across the nation," Minister for Ageing Julie Bishop said.

Ms Bishop encouraged aged care facilities and training providers to offer innovative ways of providing training.

"One project already under way uses satellite technology to give staff access to training, while another one translates training programs into an Indigenous language."

"Aged care staff who face barriers to training, often due to geographic distance from a TAFE college, may be eligible for assistance. Travel costs and payment for temporary staff while workers attend courses may also be covered by the program."

"Helping staff to improve their skills will in turn help them to provide even better care for older Australians." Ms Bishop said.

Further information about the Support for Aged Care Workers Program is available from:

<http://www.health.gov.au/acc/workforce/sacwpapp.htm> or by phoning 02 6213 4254

# Anzac Day Schools' Activities Awards

A competition to recognise the efforts of schools in honouring the Anzac spirit is open to students of primary and secondary schools.

Julie Bishop encouraged students to take part in The Anzac Day Schools' Activities Awards, an Australian Government initiative in which prize money and a plaque will be won.

"Schools are encouraged to develop innovative ways to commemorate the Anzac tradition and learn about the importance of Australia's wartime heritage."

"The awards will be judged on the research undertaken, the understanding of Anzac Day and the involvement of local veterans and Australian Defence Force members."

"\$500 and a commemorative plaque will go to the winners in the Western Australian primary and secondary school category."

"State winners will also enter into the national judging with the winners from other Australian States and Territories, and the winner will receive an additional \$1000 and a commemorative plaque."

The **Anzac Day Schools' Activities Awards** entry forms can be accessed via the Department of Veterans' Affairs website at [www.dva.gov.au](http://www.dva.gov.au) and entries close 28 May 2004.

# Saluting Their Service



The Australian Government's commemorations program, Saluting Their Service, provides funding for educational resources for schools and community groups; memorials and community commemorative

events and certificates of appreciation to those who have contributed to Australia's war effort since WWII.

A range of websites has been created by the Australian Government, including:

[www.dva.gov.au](http://www.dva.gov.au) – the Department of Veterans' Affairs website which provides a wide range of commemorative information, history, news and events, education resources and online publications.

[www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au) – the Australian War Memorial website which includes a virtual tour of the memorial, news events and links to databases and holdings of the collection.

[www.australiansatwar.gov.au](http://www.australiansatwar.gov.au) – Australians at War, providing animated documentaries, video, audio and activities as seen through the eyes of the men and women who were there.

[www.anzacsite.gov.au](http://www.anzacsite.gov.au) – the Visit Gallipoli website dedicated to the Anzac landing at Gallipoli.

[www.w2australia.gov.au](http://www.w2australia.gov.au) – Australia's War 1939 – 1945 exploring Australia's role in WWII.

## ESSAY COMPETITION - \$2000 FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

An exciting initiative for secondary students is being run by the Prime Minister's Community Business Partnership.

The Partnership is holding an essay competition on the topic of corporate social responsibility, offering a range of significant prizes for both the student and their school. Winning essays will also be featured in the Partnership's newsletter Community Business and on the website at [www.partnerships.gov.au](http://www.partnerships.gov.au)

The Partnership is a group of prominent business and community leaders who provide advice to Government on issues including corporate social responsibility and community business partnerships.

The competition topics will ask students to think about the changing role of business and how socially responsible businesses benefit their local communities.



The Government hopes to encourage more young people to begin thinking about their impact in society and how business leaders can be leaders in their communities as well.

**First prize - \$2000 cash for the student and \$3000 for the school to purchase a learning resource such as computer or**

**library books**

**Second prize - \$600 for the student**

**Third prize - \$400 for the student**

Every student who enters will receive a certificate of participation and certificates of merit will also be awarded at the judges' discretion.

Further information can be found at [www.partnerships.gov.au](http://www.partnerships.gov.au), by calling the competition secretariat on 1800 359918 or by emailing [cbp.inbox@fac.gov.au](mailto:cbp.inbox@fac.gov.au) **Closing date is 11 June 2004.**



Members of the Ethnic Community Council and aged care providers met in April at Julie Bishop's office in Subiaco L-R Therese Kwak, Maria Bunn, Maria De Silva, Edie Hoy Poy, Julie Bishop, Anna Harrison, Diane Popovich, Russell Raymond



## TOURISM IN AUSTRALIA DID YOU KNOW -

- tourism contributes (directly and indirectly) to 10% of all Australian employment
- tourism generates \$71 billion in annual expenditure
- tourism earns Australia \$17 billion in exports
- 91% of tourism businesses are small enterprises
- 47 cents in every tourism dollar is spent in regional Australia, helping those local economies and communities.

More information on Australian tourism can be found at:

[www.ausindustry.gov.au](http://www.ausindustry.gov.au)

## CURTIN RESIDENTS HAVE THEIR SAY OVER COFFEE

The Federal electorate of Curtin is home to over 120,000 people. Five State electorates (Cottesloe, Nedlands, Churchlands, Innaloo and Yokine), ten local Government authorities and around 30 suburbs are wholly or partly within the boundaries of the Curtin electorate.

Recently I held another series of community meetings and residents have raised a number of matters – from my new role as Minister for Ageing to local planning issues.

I have included here a "Top Ten" chart of issues raised during these meetings ~

1. Ageing and Aged Care
2. Health
3. Defence and border protection
4. Environment
5. Education
6. Local issues such as planning and infrastructure
7. Tax reform
8. Personal matters requiring advocacy and assistance
9. Centrelink
10. Childcare

Other issues which were raised include stamp duty on properties, immigration and refugees, information technology, insurance, power shortages, and the impacts of crime in the community.

Thank you to those who attended the meetings, and to those who have written to me to convey their views.

## FREE INFLUENZA VACCINATIONS FOR PEOPLE AGED 65 YEARS PLUS

Since the introduction of the free influenza vaccine scheme in 1999, nearly 77% of Australians aged 65 and over have received a flu vaccine.

Almost eight out of every ten Australians over 65 received the vaccination in 2003 and in aged care facilities some 87% of residents received the vaccination.

"It is important that people aged 65 years and over, who are at greatest risk, take the opportunity to get this free flu shot," Julie Bishop said.

This year the Australian Government has again allocated \$26 million to the influenza vaccination program for older Australians.

People should ask their GP for further information. Visit the Health and Ageing websites at [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au) and [www.health.gov.au/ageing.htm](http://www.health.gov.au/ageing.htm)



## AUSTRALIAN FLAGS

Flags are available for not-for-profit and charitable organisations. Please contact Julie's electorate office for details.

To contact your Federal Member of Parliament:  
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 Federal Member for Curtin



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