



Senator Sue Boyce
Queensland

MEDIA RELEASE

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**SENATE INQUIRY INTO CARE OPTIONS FOR PEOPLE
WITH DISABILITIES**

A major Senate inquiry will be held into planning options and services available for people with disabilities and their carers as they age, Senator Sue Boyce said today.

Senator Boyce said the Senate had agreed with her call to establish the inquiry which would report by September 2, 2010.

The Senate Community Affairs Committee will investigate: "Access to planning options and services for people with a disability to ensure their continued quality as they and their carers age, and to identify any inadequacies in the choice and funding of planning options currently available to people ageing with a disability and their carers."

The Committee will be calling for submissions early next year and Senator Boyce urged all support and advocacy groups for people with disabilities to start considering what advice they could provide.

"We will be wanting comprehensive submissions so that we can get the most accurate picture of the current reality and be able to make detailed and well-documented recommendations to the government," Senator Boyce said.

"Basically this inquiry will establish what happens now and what should happen in the future when the carers of people with disabilities are not there to continue their supportive role because of death or their own frailty or poor health," she said.

Senator Boyce said the Senate inquiry complemented the inquiry by the Productivity Commission announced earlier this week into the concept of a National Disability Insurance Scheme.

"Given that the Productivity Commission has a reporting deadline of July 2011, the Senate Committee report will be available for them as well as the government," Senator Boyce said.

She said people with disabilities were increasingly living in the community and not in institutions, and were more likely to outlive their parents.

"This combination means that more and more parents are having to confront the awful dilemma: 'What happens to my son or daughter when I can no longer care?' "

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Media contact: Russell Grenning on 0448 193 903 or (02) 6277 3188