NEW CENTRES LEAD THE WAY IN RESPITE DAY CARE

The 2007-08 Budget provides $41.2 million over four years for the creation of 20 respite
demonstration centres, in both metropolitan and rural areas.

The demonstration sites will offer flexible day care in aged care facilities, to enable carers to attend
to personal business without leaving their older relatives or friends unattended.

The centres will also research and evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of various models of
respite care, as the basis for further innovation.

The Minister for Ageing, Christopher Pyne, said the demonstration sites would serve a dual purpose
by offering respite to local carers, and providing the lead to the aged care industry as a whole.

“Many Australians who care for an older person make themselves available 24 hours a day, seven
days a week,” Mr Pyne said.

“But all carers need a break to attend to their own needs. Regular periods of respite make it easier
for them to continue their very valuable work.

“This Budget initiative continues the Government’s strong record of encouraging better choices for
older Australians who need support, and for people caring for them.”

Government expenditure on respite under the National Respite for Carers Program has increased

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