

# *Extract:*

(link no longer available: <https://www.agedcommunity.asn.au/news/news-bites-volume-2-2009/issue-3>)

## News Bites

Volume 2 Issue 3 – June 2009

### *ACS response to ABC '4 Corners' Program*

ACS, along with the rest of the sector, was dismayed and shocked by the distressing stories presented on ABC's 4 Corners program (1 June). It was very disheartening to see the industry portrayed in such a negative light once again.

We can take some solace from the fact the report was very unbalanced (for example, interviews with associations' representatives were not included) and DoHA was the main target rather than providers, although of course we suffered.

In response, a nationally coordinated effort was considered the best approach and ACSA issued a media release the morning after the show. ACS SA & NT issued a [combined ACS/ACSA release](#), adding some SA statistics. There has been some media follow-up in the Queensland, NSW and Victoria – primarily on ABC radio.

Yesterday, ACSA wrote to all Federal MPs (Reps and Senate) – click on the links for the [Senate copy](#) and [fact sheet](#). ACS will be writing to all State MPs (Legislative Assembly and Council) this week, using the ACSA material as the basis of the correspondence.

In our view, this program provides us with an opportunity to exert pressure on the need for significant policy change. To this end ACS has been 'feeding' Senator Xenophon with questions for Senate Estimates this week, focusing on the underlying issues that arose in the 4 Corners program, and the need to prepare a response to the Hospital and Health report and the recent Senate Inquiry.