



UNITED INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS Inc.

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MEDIA RELEASE

NSW Minister for Ageing praises UIA's efforts to assist Senior Citizens

On 21st March 2009 Hon. Paul Lynch, NSW Minister for Ageing and disability Services was the chief guest at the Senior Citizens' Forum organized by United Indian Associations at Parravilla Function Centre in Parramatta.

The Minister noted that United Indian Associations has been lobbying with both Federal and State governments for more welfare benefits for the Senior Citizens. Minister said that following a meeting between himself and the representatives of UIA including its President, the possibility of providing senior's card to those who are on bridging visa is getting further consideration by the State Government. This, he said, when implemented, will mitigate the hardship faced by the Indian Seniors who use public transport.

Mr. Raj Natarajan President, UIA outlined the various steps taken by UIA over the last two years to canvass for changes to legislation at the Federal level to speed up the issue of permanent resident visas to those seniors who are currently on bridging visa. Mr. Raj Natarajan recalled the meeting he had with the Minister for Immigration & Citizenship Senator Chris Evans on 22nd January 2009 when several issues affecting the Indian Seniors including the delays in granting permanent resident visas to those on bridging visa and also the roll out of Medicare benefits to those on bridging visa, was placed in front of the Minister. Mr. Natarajan further confirmed that he has received a response from Senator Chris Evans outlining the changes which may be forthcoming which may benefit the Indian Seniors.

Several presenters provided useful information to the seniors addressing issues like How to Keep Active, Aged Care Rights and Caring for People with Dementia. The senior's Forum was also attended by many of the members of the various senior's groups from many parts of Sydney including areas like Hornsby, Ryde, Parramatta, Liverpool and Bankstown.

For Further information contact either Mr. Raj Natarajan – 0418 649 904 or Mr. Jay Raman on 0410 759 906.
