

Carers SA seeks South Australian Government commitment to support the following outcomes in support of all South Australian carers:

Ongoing, core commitments requiring ongoing budget measures:

- I. Continue to provide ongoing resources to **Carers SA to fulfil its state-wide role** as the recognised 'voice of carers' allowing the dissemination of relevant information and resources to services; and to support the recognition of all carers in South Australia to community, service sectors and Government.
- II. Maintain the spirit and impact of the **Carers Recognition Act 2005 (SA)** by: Ensuring that carers are represented on emerging, current and ongoing advisory structures where Government planning and strategy covers topics and jurisdictions that impact on the role of carers or the person they provide care for.
- III. Ensure appropriate and secure funding for carer support services, to address South Australian specific support needs for carers, where funding for suitable services is not covered by Australian Government funding.

Urgent commitments sought to achieve the following outcomes:

- IV. **Outcome – Financial Security:** Ensure adequate financial security of informal carers in a manner that acknowledges and respects the replacement cost of their contributions.

Achievement Strategy via **Commitments** to:

- Commission an independent assessment of core living expenses (incl reliable Internet access and the higher level requirements of digital literacy for carers) in SA, to establish options to close the financial gap for carers and appropriately ensure carers' current and future financial security. Financial stress and cost of living is a key concern for SA carers and results in undue stress and vicarious traumatisation, linked to reduced health and wellbeing outcomes for South Australian carers (and their families).
- Commission an independent assessment of transport and supported transport needs, its availability, inclusive access and affordability across South Australia, to identify and address transport issues, which reduce health and wellbeing outcomes for South Australian carers (and their families).

- V. **Outcome – Improvements to Government System and Service Access:** Ensure carers have support navigating complex Government and cross sector service options and their access requirements.

Achievement Strategy via **Commitments** to:

- Provide funding for system navigation support services for carers struggling with cross service sector navigation and service access; and
- Funding for a case managed intensive support service for carers (and families) assessed as high risk (including risks related to a lack of safeguarding against abuse).

- VI. **Outcome: Improve education outcomes for young carers**

Commitment: Carers SA is urging the South Australian Government to address the need for specific recognition and targeted support for young carers within South Australian schools by funding a strategically linked service creating connections between carer support services and state funded schools.

BIBLIOGRAPHY - listing of supporting rationale and evidence

Living as an unpaid carer in South Australia – Evidenced Issues and Statistics:

- Carers SA, 2018, SA CARERS COUNT - Key issue facing carers, Report via: <https://www.carers-sa.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/State-Election-2018-Carers-SA-SA-Carers-Count-Commitments-Summary-Jan-2018-Final.pdf>
- Carers SA, 2017, Carer Survey “Carers Count”- Summary Data Results via <https://www.carers-sa.asn.au/resources/publications>
- Carers SA, 2017, Fact Sheet: Unpaid Carers in South Australia <https://www.carers-sa.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Unpaid-Carers-in-South-Australia-data-2015-released-ABS-Jan-2017-fact-sheet.pdf>
- Clements Luke, 2013, *Does your carer take sugar*. Carers Australia NSW, [online] Available at: http://www.carersnsw.org.au/Assets/Files/Does_your_carer_take_sugar_Oct2013%5b1%5d.pdf
- Government of South Australia, 2017 <http://www.sa.gov.au/topics/community-support/carers>
- Mental Health Council of Australia, 2012, Recognition and Respect – Mental Health Carers Report
- Selepak, Lynn, 2017, Carers of People with Disabilities: Current issues and future trends, [online] Available at: <http://www.disability.wa.gov.au/Global/Publications/About%20us/Count%20me%20in/Research/carers-issues-trends.pdf>

Financial Security for Carers:

- ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics – ABS. (2015a) Survey of Disability, Ageing, and Carers, Summary of Data for Carers in SA - ABS Release Jan 2017. Available at: <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/PrimaryMainFeatures/4430.0?OpenDocument> , [The average income of primary carers in SA aged 15-64 calculated to be **\$571 per week**]
- Deloitte Access Economics, 2015, The economic value of informal care in Australia in 2015, Jun. 2015 Available at: <http://www.carersaustralia.com.au/storage/access-economics-report2015.pdf> [The replacement value of the care provide by Australia's unpaid carers has increased to **\$60.3 billion per year** – over \$1 billion every week]

International comparison ensuring equitable financial security for carers:

- Europa - The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), 2019, Providing informal carers with an adequate income and social security, available including policy documents via: <https://bit.ly/2VSTopW>

Excerpt: Informal carers sometimes need to reduce their working hours or even quit their jobs to meet care responsibilities. This may result in not only an immediate lack of income, but also a subsequent lack of pension entitlement. In addition, financial burden can be aggravated by expenses related to the special needs of the person with care needs, or the cost of adaptations required to make the living environment more accessible. There are a number of ways in which informal carers can be financially supported. In Ireland, for example, a means-tested carer's allowance is paid to informal carers to support full-time care. This allowance lasts until 12 weeks after the end of informal care to financially help the carers to prepare for their post-caring lives. Some countries allow informal carers to be employed by the municipality, with a wage similar to a formal home helper (e.g. Finland and Sweden); or acknowledge informal carers' contributions by covering their contributions to social pension insurance (for example in Austria, Germany and Luxemburg).

New Zealand is paying family carers wages these have just been increased substantially to \$25/hr as announced in 2019 see: <https://bit.ly/2ppTPvz> Details regarding NZ family carer wages: <https://bit.ly/2JeYVSD>

Transport:

- Carers SA, 2018, Transport and Care 2018 – Survey Summary Report, available online at: <https://bit.ly/2JUuDFG>
- AIFS, 2011, The relationship between Transport and Disadvantage, available online at: <https://aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications/relationship-between-transport-and-disadvantage-austr>

Young Carers:

- Carers SA, 2016, Young Carers Assessment Project – “Young Carers – What Next?": via <https://bit.ly/31vrX0c> Carers SA, 2016, Supporting Young Carers through Key Transitions – Report/Resources via <https://bit.ly/2sXmA3Y>
- Carers SA's Young Carers - Sector Forum, Prof Saul Becker Presentation Oct 2016 Professor Saul Becker - Pro-Vice-Chancellor & Head of the College of Social Sciences University of Birmingham, UK. This Key Note video presentation on Young Carers is available via: https://youtu.be/PVZ_YN1urQk
- Joseph, S., Becker, F. and Becker, S. (2009) Manual for Measures of Caring Activities and Outcomes for Children and Young People. London: The Princess Royal Trust for Carers. Available at: <https://bit.ly/2J1ca97>

Contact:

David Militz, CEO, Carers SA, Tel: (08) 8291 5600, Email: david.militz@carers-sa.asn.au