



EXTRAORDINARY EVENT Special Edition Bulletin

CALL TO ACTION
Important to all Carers - please read

Summary of what this bulletin is about:

This is an important **CALL TO ACTION** about improving the "Recognition of Carers" and Advocacy for all Carers.

The Federal House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs has launched an [Inquiry](#) into the **recognition of unpaid Carers** to review the Australian Carer Recognition Act 2010 and the effectiveness of the Act and its principles in practice. Submissions are invited now.

Carers SA is collecting Carers views and will submit these on their behalf to the Inquiry. Carers can have their say [here!](#) Alternatively copy and paste this web address into your preferred Internet browser: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DPBLY7K>

This Inquiry will examine the **effectiveness of the Australian Carer Recognition Act 2010** in acknowledging and raising awareness of the important role of unpaid Carers in Australian society, and it will consider if legislative reform is needed.

The Committee wants to hear from individual unpaid Carers, and others, so it can make meaningful recommendations to Government. Therefore, this Inquiry has the potential to **impact the Recognition of Carers by Government for years to come.**

What does the Australian Carer Recognition Act state now:

The Australian [Carer Recognition Act 2010](#) has 10 Key Principles that are the corner stones of how Carers should be treated and how services should be delivered to Carers.

The 10 Key Principles of the Act currently are:

1. All Carers should have the same rights, choices and opportunities as other Australians, regardless of age, race, sex, disability, sexuality, religious or political beliefs, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage, cultural or linguistic differences, socioeconomic status or locality.
2. Children and young people who are Carers should have the same rights as all children and young people and should be supported to reach their full potential.
3. The valuable social and economic contribution that Carers make to society should be recognised and supported.
4. Carers should be supported to enjoy optimum health and social wellbeing and to participate in family, social and community life.
5. Carers should be acknowledged as individuals with their own needs within and beyond the caring role.
6. The relationship between Carers and the persons for whom they care should be recognised and respected.
7. Carers should be considered as partners with other care providers in the provision of care, acknowledging the unique knowledge and experience of Carers.

8. Carers should be treated with dignity and respect.
9. Carers should be supported to achieve greater economic wellbeing and sustainability and, where appropriate, should have opportunities to participate in employment and education.
10. Support for Carers should be timely, responsive, appropriate and accessible

The question to you as a Carer is:

Do you find that these principles are working for you in your everyday life as a Carer?

The Inquiry wants to hear from Carers regarding these principles:

- What is working?
- What is not working?
- You can share examples of your experience and make suggestions for change.

How can you take part and have your say?

If Carers wanted to have their experiences, suggestions, ideas and needs heard and their **Recognition as Carers and potential Carer Rights** embedded stronger within Australian legislation, **then now is the time to act!**

Below are options of how you can share your thoughts, experiences and recommendations regarding the Recognition of Carers in Australia.

Option 1: Making your own submission to the Inquiry directly via the Inquiry website:

<https://www.aph.gov.au/UnpaidCarers> There is information about this important Inquiry on that website as well as instructions for organisations and for Carers regarding how this can be done.

Option 2: Carers SA's user-friendly survey for Carers

Carers SA is keen to provide South Australian Carers with an opportunity **to combine their voices via a user-friendly survey**. You will find further information and tips when you follow this link to the secure online collection: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DPBLY7K> This includes:

- Part 1: We ask a few questions that are related to the Recognition of Carers now. We encourage all Carers to answer these few questions as they will form part of our additional Advocacy for Carer Recognition.
- Part 2: We encourage you to write in your own words what you would like to say about your experiences and your suggestions for the Inquiry. If you take up this opportunity, you can do so without disclosing your name or other personal details.

If you choose to join forces with us, **we will collect all responses until Sunday 30th July 2023** and submit them together in one go to the Inquiry.

Have your say here! Alternatively copy and paste this web address into your preferred Internet browser: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DPBLY7K>

This Carers SA project focuses on directly providing the voice of Carers to the Inquiry.

Carers SA is also involved in an extensive, federally focussed submission currently in progress with Carers Australia.

Regards

David Militz
CEO, Carers SA
July 2023