

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## PEAK BODY CALLS FOR GREATER FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR UNPAID CARERS

Carers must be supported to achieve greater economic wellbeing, according to the national peak body representing unpaid carers.

Recommendations have been made by Carers Australia to the Federal Government to improve the wellbeing and economic support for Australia's 2.65 million unpaid carers.

These recommendations include adding superannuation to the Carer Payment, reviewing the eligibility criteria for carer income support, and for the Government to deliver a Carer Budget Statement outlining targeted investments to recognise and support carers.

Acting CEO Lucy Tatchell said: "If these changes were implemented by the current Government, we would begin to see real-life benefits for a community in Australia providing at least \$80 billion worth of services for free to those who need it most."

Providing unpaid care can impact an individual's employment outcomes, and over time affect the superannuation and retirement savings.

Data analysis shows a primary carer loses an average of \$175,000 in superannuation and \$392,500 in lifetime earnings, to the age of 67. This is why Carers Australia is asking the government to add superannuation to the carer payment.

This would not only contribute to a carer's financial security in retirement but also reduce the demand for future government expenditure on the Age Pension.

To read the pre-budget submission in full [here](#).