Carer Income Support

Carer Payment: available if a person is caring for a child aged less than 16 who has a severe disability or medical condition, or if caring for someone over 16 who has a severe disability or medical condition, or who is frail aged. Subject to income and asset tests. Rate per fortnight for $888.30 (single) and $1339.20 (couple combined)*

Carer Allowance: Not subject to income and asset tests. Paid at a rate of $127.10 per fortnight

*includes Maximum Pension Supplement and Energy Supplement

FAST FACTS
ON DISABILITY, MENTAL HEALTH AND CARERS

The Economic Cost of Caring
The annual ‘replacement value’ of informal care in Australia is estimated to exceed $60.3 billion each year
The opportunity cost of time devoted to informal care, measured as reduction in paid employment due to caring, is equivalent to $6.5 billion
Carers provide 1.9 billion hours of care each year
The rate of full-time employment among primary carers is 19.2% While the Australian average is 42.0%

Mental Health Carers
The estimated number of people in the ACT with mental health needs in the past 12 months ACT was 78,100
Carers for a person with a mental illness are at particular risk for developing mental health disorders
Mental health carers expend on average 104 hours per week caring

Carers of People with a Disability
There are 61,123 people in the ACT with a disability
Currently 80% of care for people with a disability is provided by family or friends rather than formal services

Who cares in Australia?
307,700 carers are aged under 24
77,900 carers are under the age of 15
Over 1.5 million carers are of working age (18-64)
668,900 carers are over 65 years of age
31,600 Indigenous carers are over the age of 15
620,000 carers were born outside Australia
366,700 carers were born in non-English speaking countries

DID YOU KNOW?
There are around 48,850 carers in the ACT
There are nearly 2.86 million carers in Australia
Two fifths or 40% of carers are primary carers – this means they provide the majority of help and support for the person they care for
71% of all carers live with one or more people they care for
Over two-thirds of primary carers are women and most care for a close relative such as their partner, their parents or their children
Over half of primary carers say their main source of income is a government pension or allowance
Carers have the lowest wellbeing yet researched by Australian Unity
One study found that 18% of carers only had face to face social contact once every three months or less often
The same study found that many carers experience financial hardship
Carers have a higher rate of disability and/or long-term health conditions than people who are not carers
Regardless of the place of death, it is estimated that up to 90% of people in the terminal phase of a life threatening illness spend the majority of their time at home supported by a carer
Caring can bring a carer closer to the person to whom they provide the most care
REFERENCES

8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
12. Ibid.
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14. As at 22 March 2017. Centrelink website: 
20. Ibid.
23. Ibid.
25. Palliative Care Australia, *Submission to the Australian Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs, Inquiry into Palliative Care in Australia* (2012) 139.