

MEDIA RELEASE: CARERS RECOGNITION ACT 2021

Carers ACT welcomes the release of the Carers Recognition Act 2021 and thanks Suzanne Orr MLA for her ongoing commitment to unpaid family and friend carers in the ACT. “A Carer Recognition Act was the dream of the deliberative democracy panel of carers convened in 2017 to write the ACT Carer Strategy and I am so pleased to see this become a reality” Ms Lisa Kelly CEO of Carers ACT said.

There are more than 50,000 carers in the ACT with at least 10,000 providing more than 20 hours per week assistance to people who are frail aged, disabled, living with a chronic health or mental health problem or require palliative care. A carer can be a parent, sibling, child, grandparent, partner, spouse, foster carer or friend, with many also being our colleagues, family members and neighbours. Caring has many great benefits however it also comes at a cost to the person’s health, wellbeing, finances and social connection.

“In 2017 we started the journey towards a Canberra that Cares for Carers by committing to listening and acting on the voice of carers. The Carer Recognition Act 2021 goes a long way towards building a community that values, recognises, celebrates and supports carers” Ms Kelly stated.

“Carers contribute so much to the community, they support and advocate for our most vulnerable, they save us billions of dollars a year, they remind us about compassion on a daily basis. It is time for us as a community to recognise the work that carers do and ensure that their rights are needs are supported” commented Ms Kelly.

The Carer Recognition Act is available for public comment until the 12th March 2021. “We urge carers to read and provide comment on the Act. It is vital that the voices of carers are heard in the formation of the Act. Carers ACT will be supporting carers to have a voice through a range of mechanisms. For more information refer to the Carers ACT website” said Ms Kelly.

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