

MEDIA RELEASE

ACT CARER RECOGNITION ACT 2021

Carers ACT acknowledges the support of the ACT Government, and their ongoing commitment to building a community that values, celebrates and supports carers. The ACT Carer Recognition Act 2021 presented today in the Legislative Assembly is an important milestone in our journey towards a Canberra that Cares for Carers and one that ensures that carers' rights and needs are adequately supported.

"There are more than 50,000 family and friend carers in the ACT who provide daily assistance to people living with disability, a medical condition, a chronic or terminal illness, a mental illness or a person who is frail and aged. The ACT Carers Recognition Act 2021 acknowledges the role of carers in their caring relationships and in the community. It outlines a range of rights carers have, which includes the right to be heard and have their view considered, the right to be involved, and the right to be seen and supported" said Ms. Lisa Kelly, CEO of Carers ACT.

"Having carers recognised in law ensures that carers needs and voices will be better considered in employment, education, planning and service delivery. Too often carers are invisible or their needs dismissed, this legislation will prevent this from continuing to happen" Ms Kelly said.

"This legitimises the role of carers and recognises the important work that they do. Carers ACT, together with our community of carers support this important piece of legislation," said Ms Kelly.

In 2017, Carers ACT embarked on a partnership with the ACT Government to develop the ACT Carers Strategy with the vision of supporting carers by making Canberra more inclusive and carer friendly. The ACT Carers Recognition Act 2021 is an important step towards the realisation of this vision. It will generate much needed awareness regarding the important work that carers do to support the most vulnerable members of our community. It will put measures in place to ensure we have the proper practices to support carers and give them equal importance and recognition in the caring relationship. More importantly, the Carers Recognition Act will promote accountability across organisations and entities in the ACT towards our collective commitment to supporting and empowering carers.

-statement ends-

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23 June 2021