

11 October 2021

Celebrating 50,000 Carers in the ACT – A Million Reasons for the Government to Care

National Carers Week, 10-16 October, is a time to recognise and celebrate the 2.65 million Australians who provide unpaid care and support to family members and friends. More than 50,000 people in the ACT provide assistance with the tasks of daily living for people with a disability, mental health condition, chronic health condition, are frail aged or require palliative care.

Carers ACT CEO, Lisa Kelly said “At any time any one of us could become a carer or require care. National Carers Week is a time to acknowledge the important role carers play in their families and in the community.”

This year’s theme for National Carers Week is “Millions of Reasons to Care” highlighting the diversity of carers and their caring roles.

“Carers report feeling invisible and unrecognised for the contribution they make in caring for some of the most vulnerable members of our community,” said Ms Kelly. “Carers Week is a time to thank carers and call on everyone in the community to show their support – from government to businesses, classrooms to neighbours, medical professionals to service providers”.

Now, more than ever, carers have played such a crucial role in helping us all navigate through the Covid-19 pandemic. Carers have gone above and beyond to keep their loved ones safe and alive, often at the expense of their own economic stability, health, and wellbeing. Caring is never an easy task, and the impact is significant to the individual and the community.

“National Carers Week is the right time for the ACT Government to show its support for more than 50,000 carers living in the ACT. We were disappointed that there was no specific funding for carers, or the ACT Carers Strategy in the ACT Budget announced last week. Now, more than ever, is the time to demonstrate our support, and in line with this, we urge the ACT government to stand by the commitments they have made to supporting the ACT Carers Strategy and achieving the vision of a “Canberra that Cares for Carers”, Ms Kelly stated.

As a Carers Week Ambassador, Lorraine, a carer from Canberra, shares about what it’s truly like to be a carer from her own personal experience: <https://youtu.be/Zgd1SNsjUgU>.

-statement ends-

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