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Report highlights the plight of older carer parents

Anglicare Sydney today published the results of a five year survey which highlights the special concerns of older parent carers over the age of 60 who are still caring for a son or daughter with a disability.

“Carers of all ages are prone to stress and anxiety and are likely to need support in their caring role”, said Ara Cresswell, CEO of Carers Australia.

“However the concerns of older carers about what will happen to their adult children when those carers cease to have the capacity to provide care or die is particularly acute.

“This was a strong theme raised by carers who met with us during the Prime Minister’s Pollie Pedal bike ride to raise funds for Carers Australia this year”, said Ms Cresswell.

“Many ageing parent carers came out along the route to meet with participating politicians - including the Minister for Social Services, Kevin Andrews, and Mitch Fifield, the Assistant Minister responsible for ageing, disability and carers.”

“The National Disability Insurance Scheme was designed in part to address such concerns. It is intended to provide supports for people with a disability over a lifetime and to maximise their chances for independence. Ensuring that people with a disability will not be left in the wilderness after their family carers are unable to provide care is one of many good reasons why the NDIS must be supported to reach its original goals”, said Ms Cresswell.

“However it will take some years before the NDIS is fully rolled out across Australia and it will be important to maintain a focus on transition arrangements for those who will not be able to access these services in the meantime.

“It is also important to understand that ageing parent carers may simply not have the physical and mental stamina to continue to provide the level of care they could cope with when they were younger and are likely to require a higher level of assistance,” said Ms Cresswell.

The full report can be found here.

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