



careers
australia

Annual Report

2005|2006

about carers

in 2005, over one in eight Australians (2.6 million people) were estimated to be providing care to a person who needs assistance due to disability, chronic condition, mental illness or frailty

of these carers, nearly 500,000 are primary carers and provide the majority of the care

of the 2.6 million carers, one million live outside major metropolitan areas and of these nearly 200,000 are primary carers

it is estimated that carers together provided a total of 1.2 billion hours of care in 2005

the opportunity cost of time devoted to informal care, measured as reduction in paid employment due to caring is estimated at \$4.9 billion

replacement value of resources that would need to be diverted each year from the formal economy to provide this care is \$30.5 billion

one-third of people providing care live in households whose income places them in the poorest fifth of households in Australia

the future

the demand and supply of care will be influenced by many factors in the future, most notably

- *many chronic and disabling conditions are highly age-related, suggesting that more people may require care in the future, and*
- *there will be a smaller number of younger people, and changing work and family conditions may reduce the desire or ability to provide care*

The Economic Value of Informal Care
Access Economics Pty Ltd
ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing & Carers

about care costs

25% of workers with caring responsibilities are at risk of leaving the workforce because of the cost of care

25% of workers with caring responsibilities have already reduced their working hours because of the cost of care

60% of unemployed carers would return to the workforce if the cost of care was more affordable

52% of part-time workers with caring responsibilities would increase their hours of work if care was more affordable

Where are we now? 2006 Interim Review
Taskforce on Care Costs



Carers Australia

PO Box 73

DEAKIN WEST ACT 2600

Unit 2, 43-49 Geils Court

DEAKIN ACT 2600

p 02 6122 9900

f 02 6122 9999

caa@carersaustralia.com.au

www.carersaustralia.com.au

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Caring for someone else can extract a high price financially, by restricting job opportunities and reducing income. The overall labour force participation rate of carers is lower than those with no caring responsibilities who cares? AMP/NATSEM income & wealth report may 2006



what's ahead?

caring is a personal, social and public responsibility, shared by individuals, family, business, community organisations, public institutions and all levels of government

our mission, vision, values and goals

our mission

Carers Australia is the national voice of carers

our vision

An Australia which accepts its responsibility for caring

our values

Carers Australia is guided by the following values:

Carer centred and driven – committing to carer participation and consultation in order to be relevant and credible

Empowerment – building the capacity of carers to exercise choice, gain access to resources and achieve change in their situation

Equity, fairness and social responsibility – promoting equality of opportunity, rights and access to social and economic wellbeing

Respect for individuals – valuing the dignity of individuals and respecting differences between them

Respect for Indigenous culture and heritage – respecting the culture, history and the importance of kinship among Indigenous peoples

Recognising cultural diversity – respecting and being sensitive to people from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds and their community ties

Quality of work environment – upholding the right of staff and volunteers to work in a safe, productive and comfortable environment

Partnerships and collaboration – recognising that working with state and territory Carers Associations and other organisations with similar goals will assist us to deliver better outcomes for carers

Contribution of members – recognising, valuing and utilising the contribution and expertise of member associations

Quality and integrity of outcomes – being strategic, professional, transparent and showing leadership on carer issues

our goals

- goal 1** To influence public policy and service delivery to improve the health and wellbeing of all carers
- goal 2** To enable the public and private sectors to meet the needs of carers in different caring roles through high quality information, education and training and support strategies and mechanisms
- goal 3** To be a well governed and resourced organisation

a message from our



change has been a key element in this past year. After three years as president and seven years on our Board, we farewelled Louise Gilmore last November. It is appropriate to recognise the significant contribution Louise made to Carers Australia, particularly in raising the profile of carers in all sectors of the media.

In October our CEO Dr Jennifer Bowers left for personal reasons. We acknowledge the support of our national program manager Mary Reid in acting in the position until February when Joan Hughes, CEO of Carers NSW, took up the position on secondment. It is pleasing to report that Joan has since been appointed CEO from July 2006 and brings many years of unparalleled experience to the role. Under Joan's leadership the organisation has responded magnificently to the many and varied challenges which we have needed to face this year.

Following a *Request for Application* process earlier in 2005, Carers Australia was awarded the national contract to deliver carer information, support and counselling services until June 2006. At the same time, the Federal Government announced a review of these services, to be complete by December 2005. Throughout the review we collaborated with the government's consultants who drew extensively upon the combined

expertise of the state and territory Carers Associations forming a cohesive network with Carers Australia. Following the completion of the review in March, Carers Australia, working closely with the Network of Carers Associations, made a submission to the Federal Government to fund the Network to deliver the new carer support services. This was a major piece of work.

Other significant achievements during the year were the completion of the project funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing focusing on the information and services needs of carers of people with a mental illness, our pre-budget submission for the 2006-07 Budget, and a range of other submissions including the Senate Review of the Family and Community Services legislative amendments relating to the backdating of the Carers Allowance, from 52 weeks for a Child Carer Allowance and 26 weeks for an Adult Carers Allowance to 12 weeks for both allowances.

Access Economics completed research commissioned by Carers Australia on the economic value provided by carers. This report has added important information for our submissions and ministerial briefings and it also received a large amount of media attention. Research on sole parent carers was completed and the findings are useful in our work on carers and workforce participation.



president

budget outcomes

The 2006-07 Budget again saw the announcement that the bonus payment to carers receiving the Carer Payment or the Carer Allowance – \$1000 and \$600 respectively, would be paid. The bonus has now been paid for three years, and Carers Australia is encouraging the Federal Government to broaden the bonus entitlement to carers who are recipients of other income support, including the Aged Pension or a Parenting Payment.

Ageing carers were recognised with the announcement of 650 respite places for ageing carers of people with mental illness as part of the COAG Mental Health Initiative. (See page 9 for more details.)

ministerial meetings

Changes also occurred in the ministerial portfolios responsible for carer support in the Federal Government. Joan and I met with the offices of new ministers Senator the Hon Santo Santoro and the Hon Mal Brough. We look forward to a closer working relationship with the ministers responsible for carer support, community care, disability services, health and workforce policies and programs.

A significant highlight of the year was the successful launch of Carers Week 2005 by the Prime Minister, the

Hon John Howard; the Minister for Family and Community Services, Senator the Hon Kay Patterson and the Minister for Ageing, the Hon Julie Bishop. Media coverage of Carers Week was excellent, with a new benchmark being set for future years.

In closing I wish to thank Joan and also recognise the enthusiastic contribution of the Carers Australia staff, the staff and CEOs of the state and territory Carers Associations who have helped position the network for the next step forward and the active support and participation of the Board. While this has been quite a difficult and challenging year I believe we now have a stronger national Network across all the states and territories and are ready to face future demands in furthering the cause of carers.

BEN CHODZIESNER
President

A father of a son with autism told me just recently; I need to talk about my innermost fears, especially in regard to my child's care, but it's too painful. What I do know is that right now and probably in the future we will need ongoing help and it won't be cheap joan hughes

from our **a message** **CEO**

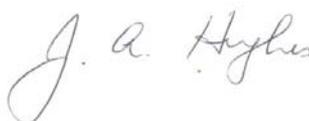
It is with great pride and privilege that I write my first report as CEO of Carers Australia. My experience of 13 years at Carers NSW will be invaluable to this job. The sadness with leaving Carers NSW is coupled with great anticipation and energy to keep fighting for carers and the people they support. Carers Australia must lead the policy debate about what constitutes quality, effective and affordable carer, community care, aged care and health services across this country.

I have many teams to work with on behalf of carers – the Board, the staff, the Network of Carers Associations and many partners in other national organisations. Together, we can make a difference to carers' lives and those they support. We must be united and make our voice heard at the highest level. Making sure that carers have choices and a quality of life is good social and health policy but it is also a human rights issue that needs to be a much higher priority for governments and community. The media also has a responsibility to tell carer stories and report on the research so that governments will listen and take positive action.

Our funding base is meagre when you consider how many individual carers and groups of carers we need to support and advocate for. There has been increased recognition and an improvement to services for carers, but it's not

adequate. If we have a viable and stronger funding base then we can be so much more effective in supporting carers.

I look forward to achieving this by building on past successes, developing well thought out strategies and plans and using my commitment and passion to serve carers.



JOAN HUGHES
Chief Executive Officer





about US

our board

Toni Dunshea
Janet Moore
June Phillips
Lynne Strathie

Ben Chodziesner, President
Pam Webster, Vice President
Roger Huband, Treasurer
Lesley Mackay, Secretary

our staff

Joan Hughes
Colleen Sheen
Anthony Watkins
Vanessa Challis
Kathy Wearn

Chief Executive Officer
Senior Policy Adviser
Communications Officer
Office Manager
Administrative Assistant

Mary Reid
Pete Smith
Karen Blake
Shirley Lennon
Adam McEvoy

National Program Manager
Project Coordinator
Information Education and Training Coordinator
Counselling Program Coordinator
Young Carers Coordinator

our members

Our members are the state and territory Carers Associations:

Carers ACT
Carers NSW
Carers NT
Carers WA

Carers Tasmania
Carers Queensland
Carers Victoria
Carers SA

our patron

His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

I often feel depressed, anxious, sad, incapable and, inefficient. Nonetheless I would never even consider giving up my caring role - I know my two loved ones would be extremely distressed if I wasn't with them and I couldn't live another life knowing that

daughter, caring for frail parent with dementia and her child with mental illness and respiratory problems.

achievement from our

the economic contribution of carers

The Economic Value of Informal Care released in August 2005 and prepared by Access Economics for Carers Australia contributes new data about the value of informal care in Australia. The report uses Australian Bureau of Statistics data and is a first step in analysing the economic value of the care provided by carers in the community to people with disabilities, a chronic condition or who are frail and would otherwise need institutionalised care. The analysis in the report was based on the replacement and opportunity costs of care provided by carers. The replacement costs reveal the resources needed to be diverted each year from the formal economy to replace the work done by carers if their services were no longer available.

This replacement value would be \$30.5 billion (or equivalent to 3.5 percent of forecast GDP and 62.2 percent of formal health care). The opportunity cost of time devoted to informal care because of a reduction in paid employment due to caring is an estimated \$4.9 billion (or equivalent to 0.6 percent of forecast GDP and 9.9 percent of the value of formal health care). This indicates that the productivity losses associated with provision of care are borne mainly by carers whose wage income is reduced. There are also losses to the wider community through reduced personal income tax collection and the payment of income support payments to carers.

The report was funded by an unrestricted grant from Eli Lilly Pty Ltd and Osteoporosis Australia who had no part

in the direction of the report. It has provided important information for Carers Australia submissions and policy work.

sole parent carers

Market research report *A crisis in caring, or a system that works?* was completed in October, and conducted by StollzNow. The research focused on one of the most vulnerable groups in Australia – single parent carers of children with disabilities. It reveals that most simply struggle. Emotional, physical and financial hardships are a daily occurrence; household finances are over-stretched; workforce participation is difficult and for many single parent carers there is continual anxiety about losing government income support and benefits.

Three in four single parent carers receive Centrelink income support, and the income for single parent carers of children with disabilities is 46 percent of the Australian average. They also have significant medical costs, which averages 15 percent of their household income.

Counselling and support groups are ideal ways for single parent carers to learn from others in the same situation, however, there is no clear program for such groups.

Main recommendations from the research include establishing a framework for carer-driven support and counselling groups, encouraging workforce participation by resolving access to and availability of appropriate child care, and adjusting Centrelink income thresholds to allow for the significant medical expenses paid by carers.

gements policy office



This research has been used in our submissions and policy work and will be addressed in the 2007-08 Budget Submission for increased single parent carer support.

2006-07 budget submission

The Federal Government has introduced significant carer support since the development of its national plan for carers in 1996. Ten years down the path there is still more to be done. Reports by the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling, the Federal Government and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reinforce the ageing of Australia and question the availability of carers.

The Carers Australia budget submission addressed priority areas—carer income support, workforce participation, education and training, disability services and community care, ageing carers of people with disabilities, young carers and carers of people with a mental illness.

Budget announcements included the bonus for carers receiving the Carer Payment and the Carer Allowance, additional respite places for ageing carers of older children with a mental illness and peer support groups for parents of children with disabilities.

national policy advice and submissions

Carers Australia provided input through several national advisory committees, including the Community Care Coalition, the National Aged Care Alliance, the Ministerial Aged Care Advisory Committee, the Medicare Australia

Consumer Consultative Group and the Younger People with Disability in Residential Aged Care Advisory Committee.

It also provided submissions to the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee on Schedule 6 – Backdating of Carer Allowance Provisions under the Family Assistance, Social Security and Veterans Affairs Legislation Amendment (2005 Budget and Other Measures) Bill 2005; and the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission on Striking the Balance: Women, men, work and family; the Residential Aged Care Abuse Taskforce; Dementia EACH Evaluation Guidelines, and Guidelines for Commonwealth Carer Respite Centres.

national carer policy working group

Meetings of the National Carer Policy Working Group continued with two meetings in Canberra and regular teleconferences. They are the main opportunity for policy officers from the Network of Carers Associations to discuss national policy direction using knowledge and experience gained through carers in the state and territory Associations.

Representatives from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing attended some sessions of the Canberra meetings. A major outcome was a proposal to Department of Health and Ageing on the need to help carers maintain their health and wellbeing. Discussions on how to achieve this through existing health programs are occurring.

achievement from our

commonwealth carer resource centres provided support for over 32,000 carers

The network of Commonwealth Carer Resource Centres, located in each state and territory Carers Association, continued their work, supporting carers through the provision of a range of information and education resources. The Centres, funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, also play an important part in referring carers to other support such as respite, home and community care and health providers.

This year the funding was managed as a single contract by Carers Australia, rather than individual contracts with each Carers Association.

The Department reviewed the way our services are provided to carers, and released a report *'Streamlined Model of Service Delivery for Carer Information, Support and Counselling'* in March 2006.

The Report has provided an opportunity for the Network to redesign our services and the way we deliver them. Our national funding submission to the Department, proposing an alternative model of support services to carers and based on the findings of the Report, was still awaiting a response at the end of June.

increasing complexity in the support we provide

When the Carer Resource Centres were established a key focus was on the provision of written information such as the *Information for Carers* support kit. Over time, and as

we work more with carers, we know their needs have changed and are becoming more complex.

We still provide written resource material to carers including over 165,000 kits this year. We continue to refer carers to other service providers to ensure that adequate support is available to them. Additional funding has been provided for counselling in the last few years, and the Resource Centres continue to provide a range of emotional support for carers.

Education and training is also a growing area of need, with a 12 percent increase from last year in the number of carers provided with this type of support by Resource Centres. This will be a key focus for the Network in the next couple of years, as a way to assist carers to build personal resilience and assertiveness.

meeting the needs of special interest groups

Work is continuing with the development of a range of resources at the state and territory level, tailored to the needs of groups such as Indigenous carers, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) carers, young carers, rural and remote and socially isolated carers. A few examples of this work are:

- A generic A5 flyer developed in conjunction with Carers NSW and Commonwealth Carer Respite Centres which is now available in 31 community languages, audio and Braille formats and an Indigenous version.

ments programs office



- Provision of resource material to remote health clinics, women's centres, and councils by the remote team at Carers NT.
- Development of a CALD community education presentation by Carers SA which was then trialled with a Vietnamese Society carers support group.

education and training

During the latter half of the year, Education and Training emerged as a key development area.

An evaluation of the national roll-out of the Carer Education Course (CEC) and Facilitators Guide developed in 2004, showed the CEC to be well received by carers, relevant to all types of caring situations and helpful in building and maintaining carer health and wellbeing. However, there was a need for a more in-depth Facilitators Guide to ensure national consistency. The new guide was completed at the end of 2005 and both the CEC and the new Facilitators Guide were distributed to our Network in May 2006.

recognising carers in national training packages

Carers Australia and the Network of Carers Associations also moved closer to developing a position about the recognition of carers in the Community Services and Health (CS&H) National Training Packages. The Carers Working Group (consisting of representatives from Carers Australia, Carers NSW, Carers Victoria and Carers WA) successfully lobbied for a Key Principles Statement to be

published by the Industry Skills Council. The statement of intent, *Key Principles Regarding Carers and the Relationship to Community Services and Health Workers Competencies* was released at the CS&H national conference in Brisbane in June.

Education and training both for carers and service providers will be a major area for development in the coming years.

national carer counselling program

The last financial year was an exciting year for the National Carer Counselling Program (NCCP) with many innovative programs introduced.

After the National Workshop held in Canberra in May, there has been a greater awareness of and commitment to the Network. There is a feeling of togetherness and a desire to share knowledge and programs and to draw on each other's expertise and experience, rather than reinventing the wheel.

The Carers Associations have worked hard to understand issues for Indigenous carers so they have more opportunity to participate in counselling tailored to their needs.

Group therapy is reaching more carers in a non-threatening atmosphere where they can interact with others in similar situations.



...carers don't get much publicity, or attention. When someone pushes a wheelchair through a crowd, it's the wheelchair that attracts the sideways glances or that causes passers-by to look politely away. In either case, the person who's doing the pushing is invisible. Those people in the crowd don't spare the carer a thought.

carer

These take various forms such as happiness therapy, music therapy and art therapy. There are many diverse groups, for example groups for men, for carers of people with autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, mental illness and alzheimers. There are also groups for former carers, and carers dealing with grief and loss.

- During the year Carers Victoria had their abstracts for both the 2006 International Counselling Conference and the National Australian Association of Social Workers conference accepted.
- Carers NSW relocated to new offices allowing better integration of a range of carer services in relation to office layout.
- Central Queensland established the new Gold Coast office whilst, across the continent, sub-contracting of the Western Australian southwest counselling services to Sophia College led to increased carer awareness and uptake of counselling services in the region.
- The Northern Territory counsellor coordinator spent time in Alice Springs providing information and encouragement to the brokered counsellors there and visited the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NYP) Women's Council and Central Australian Mental Health Service who run the Indigenous group counselling projects. Her understanding of the Indigenous projects prompted operational guidelines to ensure more seamless services.
- Tasmania's northern counsellor travelled around the north of the state reaching the more isolated carers who previously had no opportunity for face-to-face contact with a counsellor.
- The ACT program instituted new programs such as Planning for Residential Respite (addressing the emotional issues around residential respite and providing practical information), a Frail Aged Carers Forum (to obtain relevant information and network with like carers), a Disability Carers Forum and a Chronic Illness Carers Forum.

The main groups of carers accessing the program are caring for people who are frail aged, have a disability or chronic illness. The main trigger for accessing counselling was the deterioration of the carers' own health (increased from 367 in 2003-4 to 1,899 in 2005-06), closely followed by the deterioration in the health of the people needing support.

The counselling staff are looking forward to strengthening the program in 2006/07. The Network aims to diversify and continue to develop effective methods of reaching sectors of the community such as the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse, the gay and lesbian community, the Indigenous community and those carers who have disabilities.

**summary of activities 2005-06
commonwealth carer resource centres and
national carers counselling program**

Carers assisted	32,312
Services provided to carers	237,204
Carer information resources distributed	165,745
Contacts with service providers and others	26,310
Services provided to service providers	300,731
Carers who accessed counselling	6,031
Counselling sessions provided	18,140

development of carers association network

The development of the new model of support services which the Network will deliver to carers in 2006-07 was the focus of the National Workshop held in Canberra on 11-12 May. CEOs, resource centre managers, counsellors and education and training staff from all state and territory Carers Associations and Carers Australia attended the workshop. The outcomes of the workshop provided a firm basis for the design of the new model and the national funding proposal.

The success of this workshop has encouraged us to program more workshops of this kind two to three times a year, as funds permit.

supporting young carers

Since the launch of the Supporting Young Carers Project in February 2005 the project has had continued success and has identified and supported many young carers. We acknowledge the funding support of the Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs for this national project.

young carers website launched August 2005

Senator Kay Patterson, then Minister for Family and Community Services, launched the young carers website (www.youngcarers.net.au) which the Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services developed jointly with Carers Australia. It is an interactive site providing information and support to assist young carers in their caring role. By June 2006 the website had over 500,000 hits since its launch.

information kit

Carers Australia developed and launched the *young carers information kit* which has proven to be a very popular and useful resource for young carers. It includes a young carers magazine which provides information about being a young carer, an information booklet for families supporting young carers, a relaxation CD, a journal and other promotional and useful products. Carers Australia printed and distributed 15,000 information kits and has plans to reprint and distribute more kits in 2006-07.



young carers action team - a vital role

Membership of the national young carers reference group, now called ANYCAT (Australian National Young Carers Action Team), consists of young carer workers and young carers from each state and territory.

ANYCAT has played a vital role in advising Carers Australia on the issues facing young carers, the development of the national information resource and input into future planning, including the 2nd National Young Carers Summit in August 2006.

other resources for young carers

The teachers' primary school resource was developed to give teachers information on how to identify and support young carers. Carers Australia also printed the streetwise comic *Something on My Mind* and distributed it to youth services throughout Australia.

Across the country the project has had excellent results in identifying and supporting young carers since it began. It has been responsible for providing more than 30,000 individual supports to young carers, service providers, schools and others. As a result of the project 3,500 young carers received direct support. In the January to March quarter 2006 the level of direct support was roughly double that of only six months earlier. The project has also provided training, information and support to more than 6,000 workers from hundreds of organisations.

In 2006-07 a teachers resource on supporting young carers in secondary education will be developed as well as an intranet and extranet as part of the young carers website.

The 2nd National Young Carers Summit will be held in August 2006 focusing on developing action plans around the four key issues of respite, education, government and identification.

carers week 16-22 october 2005

Carers Week this year generated significant media interest with the theme 'ordinary australians in extraordinary circumstances'.

The involvement of the Prime Minister, Minister Bishop and Minister Patterson in the launch of Carers Week on 13 October 2005 significantly added to increased awareness of carers in the community and the support services that are available to them.

Each time a man stands up for an ideal or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope. And crossing each other from a million different centres of energy and daring, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression.

robert f kennedy, june 1998



our work

submissions

- Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission on Striking the Balance: Women, men, work and family, September 2005
- Pre-Budget 2006-07 Submission, November 2005
- Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee on Carer Allowance Backdating Provisions Proposed Amendments, March 2006
- Residential Aged Care Abuse Taskforce, March 2006
- EACH Dementia Program draft guidelines, March 2006
- Guidelines for Commonwealth Carer Respite Centres, March 2006

research, policy projects and publications

- *The Economic Value of Informal Care* with Access Economics to determine the contribution of unpaid carers and the equivalent value if this was funded by the public sector. The research was funded by an unrestricted grant from Eli Lilly Pty Ltd and Osteoporosis Australia, August 2005
- *A crisis in caring, or a system that works? – Market Research Report* undertaken by StollzNow to discover major issues impacting on single parent carers in their daily living, October 2005

- Carers of People with a Mental Illness policy project, with national workshop to develop mental health policy. The project was funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, completed May 2006
- Fact sheet on Australian Bureau of Statistics 2003 Survey of Ageing Disability and Carers Survey
- *Advice for Carers* series of information leaflets specifically designed to provide carers with essential information about the supports and services they need. The information addresses topics such as financial support, legal matters, support services, help for young carers, and additional support for indigenous carers. It was funded by the Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, October 2005
- *Carers' National News* is a quarterly electronic newsletter produced and distributed to a wide readership

participation in alliances and networks

- ACROD National Committee on Ageing and Disability. MOU signed with ACROD, Aged Care Services Alliance, Council on the Ageing and Australian Federation of Disability Agencies
- Aged Care Advisory Committee
- Aged Care Services Alliance

- Alzheimer's Australia Reference Committee
- Australian Council for Safety and Quality in Health Care
- Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Carer Payment (Child) Extended Eligibility Reference Group
- Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Long Term Impact of Caring Research Project Reference Committee
- Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council National Open Disclosure Pilot Steering Committee
- Australian Research Alliance for Children & Youth Counsellor
- Centrelink Carers Service Delivery Reference Group
- Centrelink Disability Service Reference Group
- Committee for Economic Development of Australia
- Community Care Coalition
- Consumers' Health Forum of Australia Governing Committee Member
- Consumers' Health Forum of Australia Quality Use of Medicines (Chronic Conditions)
- Continence Management Advisory Committee
- Dementia National Health Priority Initiative Draft National Evaluation Framework
- Industry Skills Council Industry Reference Group
- Medicare Australia Consumer Consultative Group
- Mental Health Council of Australia
- National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
- National Aged Care Alliance
- National Health and Medical Research Council/ Australian Research Council Research Network on Ageing Well Advisory Group
- National Mental Health Consumers and Carers Forum
- National Prescribing Service
- Palliative Care Australia Council

- Palliative Care Australia National Reference Group
- Residential Aged Care Abuse Taskforce
- 'The Way Forward' Reference Group
- Young People in Nursing Homes COAG Advisory Group

presentations

- Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing Dementia Research Conference
- Diversity in Health Care Conference
- Focus on Caring Conference
- Home & Community Care Rural Providers Conference
- The MHS (mental health) Conference

media releases and media articles

- Young carer information kit, August 2005
- Walk a mile in my shoes campaign, September 2005
- Access Economics report, October 2005
- Carers Week 2005 launch, October 2005
- Ageing carers of people with a disability response to government measures, October 2005
- Respite care cottages, January 2006
- Respite funding for employed carers, February 2006
- Tragedies highlight conflict for carers, February 2006
- Carer Allowance backdating provisions, March 2006
- Mental health training for family carers, April 2006
- \$1.8 billion for mental health care and carers, April 2006
- The cost of caring, May 2006
- Third Carers Bonus, May 2006
- Announcement of new CEO, June 2006
- *The Australian Women's Weekly* coordination of information and carer stories for article on the transition of a care recipient to an aged care residential home, June 2006
- *Notebook* (national women's magazine) coordination of carer article, June 2006

I have found that the greatest degree of inner tranquillity comes from the development of love and compassion. The more we care for the happiness of others, the greater is our own sense of well-being.

Cultivating a close, warm-hearted feeling for others automatically puts

the mind at ease. It is the ultimate source of success in life.

The Dalai Lama



financial report

for the year ended 30 June 2006

board's report

Your Board members submit the financial report for Carers Australia Incorporated for the financial year ended 30 June 2006.

17

principal activities

The principal activity of the Association during the financial year was furthering the interests of carers.

significant changes

There were no significant changes in the nature of these activities during the year.

operating result

The deficit for the year amounted to \$29,001 after extraordinary items and there was no income tax payable.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board



Ben Chodziesner (President)



Roger Huband (Treasurer)

Dated this 24th day of November 2006

independent audit report

to the members of carers australia incorporated

scope

We have audited the financial statements of Carers Australia Incorporated, being the Income & Expenditure Statement and Balance Sheet for the year ended 30 June 2006. The Board is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements and the information they contain. We have conducted an independent audit of these financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to the members.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements, and evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in the notes to the accounts and relevant statutory requirements as outlined in the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991 (ACT)* as to present a view of the entity which is consistent with our understanding of its financial position and the results of its operations and cash flows.

audit opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements are in accordance with s72 of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991 (ACT)* and present a true and fair view of the financial position of Carers Australia Incorporated as at 30 June 2006 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.



Bryce Gorrell
Chartered Accountant

28 September 2006

Gorrell Long Robertson Pty Ltd

Chartered Accountants
Tax & Business Advisors
PO Box 3875
WESTON ACT 2611
t 02 6287 2655

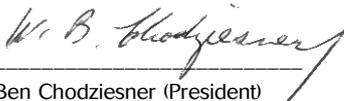
statement by members of the board

In the opinion of the Board the financial report as set out on pages 17 to 24:

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1. Presents fairly the financial position of Carers Australia Incorporated as at 30 June 2006 and its performance for the financial year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in the notes to the accounts and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Carers Australia Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board and is signed for and on behalf of the Board by:



Ben Chodziesner (President)



Roger Huband (Treasurer)

Dated this 26th day of October 2006

statement of income & expenditure

for the year ended 30 June 2006

Carers Australia Incorporated

	Notes	2006 \$	2005 \$
Income			
Carers Counselling Program		3,036,143	2,458,390
Carers Education and Workplace Training Project (CEWT)		-	14,000
Carers Information & Support Program (CISP)		1,550,777	-
Carers Information Pack		-	730,894
Carers Resource Centre Program		1,651,839	291,718
Carers Week		156,768	185,000
Economic Research Study		-	37,177
Election 2004		-	20,000
Informal Care Research		-	8,793
Mental Health Project		92,373	86,654
Miscellaneous	2	43,367	119,424
Secretariat		384,047	340,909
Young Carers Pack		-	326,760
Young Carers Program		543,589	365,697
Young Carers Summit - 2004		-	81,409
Young Carers Summit - 2006		<u>7,904</u>	<u>53,000</u>
Total Income		<u>7,466,806</u>	<u>5,119,825</u>
Expenditure			
Carers Counselling Program		3,036,143	2,458,390
Carers Education and Workplace Training Project (CEWT)		-	14,000
Carers Information Pack		-	730,894
Carers Week		156,768	185,000
Carers Information & Support Program (CISP)		1,550,777	-
Economic Research Study		1,536	41,626
Election 2004		-	20,000
Informal Care Research		-	8,793
Mental Health Project		92,373	86,654
Miscellaneous		19,000	96,968
Carers Resource Centre Program		1,651,839	291,718
Secretariat		406,563	340,909
Sole Parent Carers Study		29,316	-
Young Carers Pack		-	326,872
Young Carers Program		543,589	365,697
Young Carers Summit - 2004		-	70,477
Young Carers Summit - 2006		<u>7,904</u>	<u>53,000</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>7,495,807</u>	<u>5,090,998</u>
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		<u>(29,001)</u>	<u>28,828</u>
Opening Accumulated Funds		<u>378,222</u>	<u>349,394</u>
CLOSING ACCUMULATED FUNDS		<u>349,221</u>	<u>378,222</u>

the accompanying notes form part of the accounts – to be read in conjunction with the attached auditor's report

balance sheet

as at 30 June 2006

	Notes	2006 \$	2005 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash Assets	3	634,464	1,858,165
Receivables & Prepayments	4	<u>77,873</u>	<u>55,715</u>
Total Current Assets		712,337	1,913,880
TOTAL ASSETS			
		<u>712,337</u>	<u>1,913,880</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors & Payables	5	43,231	393,811
Committed Expenditure	6	-	853,008
Unspent Grants	7	158,510	127,691
Income Received in Advance	8	12,000	36,000
Provision for Annual Leave		33,495	31,148
Total Current Liabilities		<u>247,237</u>	<u>1,441,657</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provision for Long Service Leave		5,879	-
Provision for Campaign	9	8,000	4,000
Provision for Asset Replacement	10	55,000	40,000
Provision for Research & Development	11	47,000	50,000
Total Non-Current Liabilities		<u>115,879</u>	<u>94,000</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		363,116	1,535,657
NET ASSETS		<u>349,221</u>	<u>378,222</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Accumulated Surplus		349,221	378,222
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		<u>349,221</u>	<u>378,222</u>

Carers Australia Incorporated

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the accompanying notes form part of the accounts – to be read in conjunction with the attached auditor's report

notes

to the financial statements for year ended 30 June 2006

Carers Australia Incorporated

NOTE 1 - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Board have determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and accordingly, this financial report is a special purpose report prepared for the sole purpose of distributing a financial report to members and must not be used for any other purpose. The Board have determined that the accounting policies adopted are appropriate to meet the needs of the members.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standards and the requirements of the *Associations Incorporations Act 1991*. Unless otherwise stated, the accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the prior year.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs. It does not take into account changing money values or, except where stated, current valuations of non-current assets. Cost is based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the Association in the preparation of the financial report.

(a) Revenue

Government grants revenue is recognised when the expenditure related to the grant is recognised. Grant monies that have been received or are receivable but have not been expended at balance date, are carried forward as unexpended grants (unearned revenue liability).

All other sources of income are recognised as income when the related goods or services have been provided and the income earned.

(b) Property, Plant and Equipment

All assets costing less than \$20,000 are expensed in the year of purchase so as to provide ease of understanding and a more accurate picture of the financial situation of the Association.

(c) Income Tax

The Association is exempt from income tax under Section 50-10 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

(d) Employee Entitlements

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee entitlements arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee entitlements have been measured as the amount unpaid at the reporting date at current pay rates in respect of employees' services up to date.

A provision for long service leave is recognised after five years of service on a pro-rata basis and is measured at current rates and classified as a non-current liability. Long service leave entitlements expected to be settled within one year are classified as current liabilities and measured at current rates.

(e) Goods and Services Tax

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. Receivables and Payables in the Balance Sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

(f) Statement of Cash Flows

Accounting Standard AASB 1026 'Statement of Cash Flows' has not been adopted this year, as it is our opinion that no additional nor materially useful information would be incorporated into the financial statements if this accounting standard was adopted.

the accompanying notes form part of the accounts – to be read in conjunction with the attached auditor's report

notes

to the financial statements for year ended 30 June 2006

Carers Australia Incorporated

	2006	2005
	\$	\$
NOTE 2 - MISCELLANEOUS INCOME		
Membership fees from states/territories	8,000	8,000
Donations received	10,653	10,000
Interest Received	23,054	27,935
Book Sales	-	98
Sponsorships	-	15,000
Authoring	-	12,925
Royalties	-	162
Management Services	-	45,304
Meeting Fees	<u>1,660</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>43,367</u>	<u>119,424</u>

NOTE 3 - CASH ASSETS

Cash on hand	476	245
Cash at bank - General account	323,377	1,244,309
Cash at bank - Counselling Grant account	44,823	100,798
Cash at bank - Young Carers Grant account	-	7,643
NAB Investment account	40,297	289,467
Term Deposits	<u>225,491</u>	<u>215,704</u>
	<u>634,464</u>	<u>1,858,165</u>

NOTE 4 - RECEIVABLES & PREPAYMENTS

ATO - GST Refundable	14,150	-
Receivables	58,841	55,715
Prepayments	<u>4,883</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>77,873</u>	<u>55,715</u>

NOTE 5 - CREDITORS & PAYABLES

ATO - GST Liability	-	108,952
Employee payables	5,362	14,338
Sundry payables	<u>37,869</u>	<u>270,521</u>
	<u>43,231</u>	<u>393,811</u>

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notes

to the financial statements for year ended 30 June 2006

Carers Australia Incorporated

	2006	2005
	\$	\$

NOTE 6 - COMMITTED EXPENDITURE

The committed expenditure is made up of committed costs or firm quotes attributable to the Carers Information Pack and the Young Carers Pack.

Carers Information Pack	-	712,894
Young Carers Pack	<u>-</u>	<u>140,114</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>853,008</u>

NOTE 7 - UNSPENT GRANTS

Secretariat	-	28,958
Carers Resource Centre Program	13,465	19,946
Carers Counselling Program	20,466	13,842
Young Carers Program	122,983	52,572
Mental Health Project	-	12,373
Young Carers Summit 2006	<u>1,596</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>158,510</u>	<u>127,691</u>

NOTE 8 - INCOME RECEIVED IN ADVANCE

Mental Health Project	-	30,000
States Contribution	<u>12,000</u>	<u>6,000</u>
	<u>12,000</u>	<u>36,000</u>

NOTE 9 - PROVISION FOR CAMPAIGN

This is a provision for increasing the awareness of carers' issues in the lead-up to the 2007 Federal Election. It is expected that the majority of this expenditure will be incurred within two years of the reporting date.

NOTE 10 - PROVISION FOR ASSET REPLACEMENT

Consistent with accounting policy 1(b), the Board of Carers Australia has a policy of replacing key assets as they age, and has decided to make provision for this expenditure for when it may be required.

NOTE 11 - PROVISION FOR RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

A provision is recognised in relation to future research/studies on the needs and issues of carers in Australia and bringing these issues to the notice of government agencies and departments.





carers australia works continually to build awareness of carers needs and represent their interests through our research policy submissions publications and advocacy we work actively to identify and research emerging issues gather data to support our arguments aimed at promoting the long-term interests of carers across australia and seek opportunities to represent carers in meetings with politicians and policy makers and through a variety of committees and other avenues