

7TH INTERNATIONAL CARERS CONFERENCE, ADELAIDE, OCTOBER 2017

**From recognition to rights:
our legacy for the carers of the future?**

A DIALOGUE

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Caring into the future:
the new world



a radical reimagining

Questions

- What does the **recognition** paradigm provide?
- What might a **rights** paradigm offer?
- What **barriers** might carers face as rights claimants?
- How can we **move forward** into the future?

Recognition - the paradigm of the present

- **Carer Recognition Acts:** Commonwealth, NSW, Vic, SA, Qld, WA, NT; Carers Charter, ACT; 'Carer Policy', Tas
- **acknowledge** that individual carers face barriers to social participation ... but limited applications, limited provisions
- **acknowledge** that carers are a distinct social group that faces systemic disadvantage ... but limited application, and limited provisions



NSW Government
Department of

So glad
you are
'carer
aware'

Don't I know you from
somewhere? Ah yes,
you're a carer!

an act of carer recognition?

Rights - what we have now

Rights

- are moral and legal **entitlements**
- are **enshrined in law**
- involve a relationship between **rights-holders** and **duty-bearers**

Current rights for Australian carers

- Income support (welfare payments)
- Limited rights in the workplace
- Limited recognition in disability and care legislation and policy

Rights for the future ...

Rights and the redistribution of care obligations

- From individuals to community
From women to de-gendered caring roles
From the family to society and the state.
- Part of an overall **social justice** agenda

Carer-specific rights

- Carers recognised as a 'protected class', with rights enshrined in law



We need both

the **right** to care ...
.... and the **right**
not to care ...

Barriers to rights

Political – the financial cost of care

The political economy of informal care provision: a barrier for redistributed social obligations

Ideological – the impact of sociocultural narratives of caring

How these narratives inform – and constrain – the lives of carers: a barrier for carer-specific rights



Ways forward – lessons from other rights seekers

Story-telling and consciousness raising

- to broaden the repertoire of carer narratives that are deemed legitimate

Ground-up theory building

- to galvanise and inspire carers of the present and future
- to embrace the available theoretical tools of feminist care theorists
- to champion research 'from' as well as research 'on'

Our legacy for the
carers of the future?



a radical reimagining