

MEDIA RELEASE



24 November 2021

Carers Australia thanks outgoing Chair and CEO

Carers Australia is today celebrating the leadership of its outgoing Chair, Ms Sonia Rutnam and outgoing Chief Executive Officer, Ms Liz Callaghan.

Ms Rutnam was an independent member of Carers Australia for four years, firstly as an independent member of the Finance, Audit, Risk and Governance Committee from 2017 to 2019 and was then appointed as an Independent Board Member in 2019 and elected Chairperson of the Carers Australia Board from November 2019.

In this time Ms Rutnam has overseen the organisation through a period of significant change to a point where the organisation has a sound foundation of strong governance and clear strategic direction.

“It has been a privilege to work with the Carers Australia Board and members over the last couple of years, through a period of significant change and I look forward to seeing the organisation go from strength to strength” said Ms Rutnam.

Ms Callaghan joined Carers Australia at the height of the pandemic and has steered the organisation through very challenging times. In this time Ms Callaghan has worked with the Board to develop a three-year strategic plan and successfully raised the carer profile nationally and supported the Carers Australia team throughout the pandemic. Ms Callaghan will be taking up an opportunity within the federal government.

“It has been an honour to lead Carers Australia through an incredibly challenging period of time, and I look forward to seeing what the next steps for this important organisation will be” said Ms Callaghan.

Carers Australia Board Chair Mr Steve Sant says Ms Rutnam and Ms Callaghan leave Carers Australia in a very strong position for the future. “Both Sonia and Liz have done a phenomenal job at leading Carers Australia with their collective expertise in health and social policy, management and stakeholder engagement. I and the rest of the Board would like to thank them both for all that they have done for the organisation and wish them the very best for their future,” said Mr Sant.

The Board of Carers Australia have commenced recruitment of a Chief Executive Officer. The Board has appointed Ms Melanie Cantwell National Director Corporate and Governance/Company Secretary as Acting CEO of Carers Australia during the recruitment process.

About Carers Australia and the National Carer Network



Carers Australia is the national peak body representing Australia's carers, advocating to influence policies and services at a national level. The National Carer Network, which consists of Carers NSW, Carers ACT, Carers Victoria, Carers Tasmania, Carers SA, Carers WA, Carers NT, and Carers Queensland, deliver a range of essential carer services across states and territories.

About carers

An informal, unpaid carer is a family member or friend that cares for someone that has a disability, chronic or life-limiting illness, is frail aged, has a mental health illness, alcohol or other drug related issue. Informal carers are distinct from paid support workers who are colloquially also called carers but are fully employed and remunerated with all the benefits of employment. Conversely, family carers perform their caring duties without remuneration

For media enquiries please contact Carers Australia on 0428 948 415