

MEDIA RELEASE



19 October 2023

Investment for Australia's Carers

Carers Australia welcomes today's announcement to increase support for Australia's 2.65 million unpaid carers.

The \$3.8 million investment in a National Carers Strategy will provide a coordinated carer policy, removing geographical and agency boundaries for carers.

It comes as Carers Australia launches its [Carer-Inclusive Workplace Initiative](#) aimed at creating a more inclusive, supportive workplace for Australian's who provide unpaid care in the community.

Jane Bacot-Kilpatrick, CEO of Carers Australia, welcomed the announcement saying: "This investment is an important step in providing carers with the recognition and support they deserve.

"As the national peak body representing Australia's carers, we have been advocating for the development of a new National Carer Strategy since the last strategy lapsed in 2014.

"We urge the Australian government and broader community to reflect and learn from the past so this new strategy is fit for purpose and delivers on its promise to carers."

Today's announcement follows the ongoing Inquiry into the recognition of unpaid carers, Carers Australia's continuous advocacy to re-establish the Strategy, and several recommendations to not only re-instate a National Strategy but introduce robust monitoring and reporting mechanisms.

The [2023 Carer Wellbeing Survey](#) report found more than 40% of carers spent at least an hour each week – often more, navigating government support systems. Additionally, over 60% reported they reviewed no assistance to help navigate these systems.



Carers Australia is calling for the National Carer Strategy to address this gap, along with many others, in the development and implementation of the Strategy.

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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

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