

MEDIA RELEASE

Australia's carers support workplace flexibility

Carers Australia welcomes the support from political leaders for family and friend carers who require reasonable workplace flexibility.

“Many carers are valued employees,” says Carers Australia CEO, Annabel Reid. “They juggle work with their caring responsibilities, and a flexible working environment allows them to contribute their skills. It’s a win for carers, for the people they care for, and for employers.”

“Studies show that carers who are supported in the workplace boost retention rates, and reduce recruitment and training costs,” says Reid. “Carers are by nature skilled multitaskers, problem solvers, and empathetic humans – it is no wonder they’re sought-after employees. They also make up one in 8 Australians.”

The Carer-Inclusive Workplace Initiative ([CIWI](#)), launched in 2023 by the Department of Social Services and spearheaded by Carers Australia, supports small and large businesses and organisations with online learning and downloadable resources for carers in the paid workforce.

HR professionals have developed materials in consultation with carers, and are industry agnostic to shape carer-inclusivity.

The Carer Recognition Act of 2010 describes carers’ rights to paid work participation, and now with CIWI guidance available, workplaces can thrive with carers in their organisations.

“Supporting carers in the workplace and in their caring needs is an economic issue,” says Reid. “There are four types of people in the world – those who have been carers, who are carers now, who will be carers, and those who will or do have someone else care for them.”

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About Carers Australia

[Carers Australia](#) is the national peak body representing Australia’s carers, advocating to influence policies and services at a national level.

About carers

An informal carer is someone who cares for a family member or friend with 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.

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