

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## Carers need support during fuel challenges

The National Carer Network is urging Federal, state and territory governments to include the needs of family and friend carers during the current fuel challenges.

“We are already seeing some service providers decline some shifts or provision of a service because fuel prices mean travel is no longer viable,” said Carers Australia CEO, Annabel Reid.

“In the past, family and friend carers’ needs have often been overlooked or forgotten. We want to make sure carers can be supported, and can continue their caring responsibilities; the National Carer Network will work with national, state and territory governments to do so,”

“If there are restrictions or other supply measures, we would strongly advocate people caring for a family member or friend be able to access fuel, to allow them to continue their essential caring responsibilities. This includes people who cannot use public transport or stay at home,”

“Carers can be identified by using carer cards available in some states and territories, mobility cards, or via carer payments and supplements available nationally..

Family and friend carers take on caring responsibilities which save the aged care, disability and health systems billions of dollars a week in costs. A 2021 study found the replacement value of care was \$79 billion.

**ENDS**



### **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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