

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## Work and aged care support welcomed, but NDIS reform concerns remain

Funding for workplace and aged care supports announced in the Budget will benefit carers but concerns about the impact of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) changes on carers remain, says Carers Australia CEO Joanna Cave.

"It is excellent news for carers that funding for the Carer Inclusive Workplace Initiative (CIWI) will continue, with funding of \$3.2 million over the next four years. We know this program encourages workplaces to be more aware and more flexible in their approach to employing carers in the workforce," she said.

"Many carers want to work, but struggle to find workplaces that are supportive of their caring role. CIWI provides employers with tools, resources and recognition to create inclusive and flexible workplaces.

"More than three million Australians are carers, and many want to work and work more hours. We need to support carers to be part of our workforce – working is good for their wellbeing and there is a potential productivity bonus," she said.

Ms Cave said the investment in aged care announced in the Budget will also benefit carers.

"We are pleased to see the additional \$3.7 billion investment for more aged care beds, packages and better care for older Australians. Aged care supports will go a long way to enabling older Australians to retain their independence longer, and this is good for both older Australians and their carers.

"In addition, the move to invest \$6.7 million in innovative respite care grants for carers of people with dementia answers the call in our Budget Submission to recognise the importance of respite to carers and those receiving care for their mental and physical health," Ms Cave said.

While Carers Australia acknowledges changes to the NDIS are necessary to improve the sustainability and integrity of the scheme, more than half the Federal Budget's savings (\$37.8 billion over the next four years) are from the NDIS.

"We are saddened to see that Australians with a disability and their carers are left shouldering the majority of the cost saving burden in this Budget. We support changes to ensure the NDIS continues to be financially sustainable, but less funding and fewer supports for recipients will shift the responsibility to carers.

"We know that whenever there are system gaps, family, friend and kin carers are the fallback option and many of those carers are already at breaking point. Our Carer Wellbeing Survey (2025) showed carers



are half as likely to have healthy levels of wellbeing compared to other Australians and they are twice as likely to experience high levels of psychological distress. They need more support, not less.

“Carers Australia will continue to advocate for Australia’s carers through the consultation period for these changes. We look forward to working with government to ensure carers are not more disadvantaged by these changes and the people they care for continue to be supported to thrive,” Ms Cave said.

**ENDS**

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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.