

MEDIA RELEASE



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Carers Australia welcomes new Independent Board Director

Carers Australia has welcomed Sruthi Srikanthan, a health economist and Partner at Deloitte Access Economics as the newest addition to its Board as an Independent Board Director.

Carers Australia Chairman David Quilty said the Board was looking forward to working with Ms Srikanthan who brings extensive experience across disability, aged care and health policy and both personal and professional understanding of the lived carer experience.

"Sruthi brings significant experience in health economics and the community sector. Her expertise in advising on complex, high-stakes issues will complement the strengths of other Board members, and I am sure she will make a significant contribution to Carers Australia," he said.

Mr Quilty said the calibre of applicants for the role was very high and the Board was grateful to all of those who put forward an application.

Ms Srikanthan said she was thrilled to bring her skills to Carers Australia, an organisation close to her heart.

"I was a young carer for my grandad as an adolescent with my Mum. I didn't describe myself as that, I probably didn't have the language for at the time. But being a young carer had a big influence on the career I have now," she said.

She said her family sought, and was given, support from Carers Australia and when the opportunity arose to join the Board she felt it was a role where she could give back and add value to a community she understood.

She is keen to apply her capability as a health economist to shift the thinking on unpaid care in Australia in her new Board role.

"Unpaid care can act as an unspoken safety net for our large social care systems. There needs to be a shift in mindset – though it is not paid for, it is incredibly valuable – not just within households but to the whole Australian economy," Ms Srikanthan said.

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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 and Carers Queensland, deliver a range of essential carer services across states and territories.