



MEDIA RELEASE

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Relatives and friends of people with a mental illness to receive more support

ARAFMI (the Association of the Relatives and Friends of the Mentally Ill Inc) this week announced its decision to wind up the organisation and transfer its services to Carers SA.

ARAFMI was established in 1978 by a group of carers who identified a need for a service to specifically address the needs of carers of people with a mental illness. Since that time it has provided a valuable service for hundreds of carers in SA.

President of ARAFMI, Ross Mittiga, said that whilst it was a difficult decision for the Board and members to make, as a small organisation it was increasingly difficult to meet its obligations.

“As a result, we decided to be proactive in identifying options that would ensure that our funding was retained and that our services would continue for our members,” Mr Mittiga said.

“Our ultimate concern was how ARAFMI could ensure the best service possible for carers of people with a mental illness in SA.

“In winding up ARAFMI, our members agreed that Carers SA had the capacity and potential to provide a wider and better range of services to our members and a bigger voice along with other carers,” he said.

CEO of Carers SA Rosemary Warmington said it’s a difficult decision for such a dedicated group to make but knows it was done in the best interests of the ARAFMI members.

“We welcome all of the ARAFMI members to Carers SA,” Ms Warmington said.

“Being connected to Carers SA will give carers access to a wider range of services across the State, including retreats, respite, education, workshops and forums, counseling, support and information and advisory service”.

The service will be operating from 2007 following a short transition period.

Further media information: Please contact Bec Tape on 8331 1444 or 0438 806 983