



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Carers SA applauds Carers Policy

Carers SA, the State's peak body for family Carers, has applauded the Government's moves to support Carers following today's launch of the Carers Policy, but says it's now time for the health community to follow their lead.

Chief Executive Officer Rosemary Warmington says the responsibility now lies with the health professionals and general public to ensure family Carers are recognised for their important role in the health system.

"For too long Carers have been invisible in our society which is hard to believe considering they save the Federal and State Government a combined \$19.3 billion a year by keeping loved ones out of formal health care," Ms Warmington said.

"The biggest issue for Carers is recognition, particularly from health professionals, many of whom do not include them in consultations with the patient as their primary care provider.

"Health Professionals such as GPs and other allied health workers and community service staff need to be provided with a comprehensive information pack providing information on the issues facing Carers and their needs, combined with adequate training.

"One other key issue is training for Carers to help them to manage their caring responsibilities. For so long the focus has been on the patients but just as important is the Carer's own health and wellbeing. It's critical that our Carers are provided with services that give them both practical and emotional support and also give them a break from their caring role"

The Carers Policy, officially launched by the Minister Jay Weatherill, Minister for Families and Communities at the Young Carers Expo today included a policy information pack on the policy and the Carers Charter.

"We're pleased that we have come this far but ultimately the measure of the policy's success will be in how it affects our Carers on a day-to-day basis," Rosemary said. Critical to its success will be additional resources available to implement and promote the Carers Policy into the future.

"We want to see the policy flow through at every level from the GP consultations to the local community and health service and this will only be achieved with a holistic approach to the issue which is now gradually being addressed.

"We'll be continuing to monitor the impact of the policy on our family Carers."

Further media information:

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