



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SA's peak caring body applauds Carers Recognition Bill

South Australia's peak family Carer organisation says the State Government's Carers Recognition Bill, announced yesterday by Minister for Families and Communities, Jay Weatherill, turns family Carers from being invisible to visible.

Chief Executive Officer of Carers Association of SA, Ms Rosemary Warmington says the Bill represents a huge step forward for the State's 250,000 family Carers.

"Our family Carers play such a critical role in the health and disability system, saving the State Government more than \$2 billion each year by keeping their loved ones out of formal care facilities, so it's fantastic to see that their needs are finally being recognised," Ms Warmington said.

The Carers Recognition Bill will include the new Carers Charter, used by service providers to ensure Carers are included as an integral component of their work in supporting the cared-for person's health and wellbeing.

"One of the seven principles of the Charter is to recognise that all children and young people have the right to enjoy life and reach their potential," Ms Warmington said.

"This is something that young Carers have traditionally found difficult to do because of a lack of recognition of their caring role by their schools.

"Access to affordable services, particularly ongoing quality respite remains a pressing need for family Carers of all ages."

The Carers Association of SA is calling on all parties and independents to support the Bill in Parliament.

"This is a day for Carers to celebrate the fact that the talk has finally turned to action," Rosemary said.

"Our challenge now is to see that the Bill is passed in time for National Carers Awareness Week which starts on October 16, making it a priceless gift for all family Carers."

To arrange an interview/photograph with Rosemary Warmington and/or a family Carer, please contact Bec Tape on 8331 1444 or 0438 806 983