



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Time for Equal Opportunities for Carers

The Carers Association has welcomed moves by the Australian Democrats to amend South Australia's Equal Opportunity Act to prevent discrimination against Carers.

Executive Director of the Carers Association, Rosemary Warmington, said the amendment was long overdue as many Carers felt discriminated against because of their caring role and there had been no legislation to redress their needs.

"What this amendment would do is protect Carers throughout South Australia from discrimination, just as it is unlawful to discriminate against someone on the grounds of sex, sexuality, marital status, pregnancy or race," said Ms Warmington.

"This is particularly important for Carers who are employed or seeking work.

"This legislation would make it unlawful for an employer to discriminate against a person on the basis of them being a Carer when deciding who should be offered a job, or in the terms or conditions of employment," she said.

Ms Warmington said it was fitting that Australian Democrats MLC, Kate Reynolds, would introduce the legislation into State Parliament during Carers Awareness Week.

"This legislation would give some rights to the more than 216,000 Carers who contribute \$2 billion a year to the State's economy by keeping their loved ones out of hospitals and nursing homes," said Ms Warmington.

"This legislation recognises the complex challenges family carers face balancing their responsibilities as paid workers with their role as family carers.

"In other words this is common sense legislation which would give fair and reasonable protection against discrimination to Carers under the Equal Opportunity Act," she said.

"We call on the other political parties and independents to support to this piece of legislation to ensure a fairer deal for all Carers," concluded Ms Warmington.

For further information on the Carers Association of SA Inc, visit www.carers-sa.asn.au.

Authorised by Executive Director Carers Association SA Inc, Ms Rosemary Warmington.

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