



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Carers Association welcomes additional funding

South Australia's peak family Carer body, the Carers Association of SA Inc, has welcomed additional funding for the mental health and disability sectors announced by the State Government today.

The significant investment of \$45 million over four years towards mental health and a further \$92 million over four years towards the disability sector will assist the State's suffering mental health system and provide welcome relief to the State's 235,000 Carers who provide the necessary care.

The budget measures that directly affect South Australian Carers include:

- Mental health: \$2.25 million over four years including \$1 million for in home respite for Carers of people with a mental illness and \$1.25 million for non-government organizations to support and assist Carers of people with a mental illness;
- Concessions: A one-off rebate of \$150 for people getting energy concessions plus extension of energy concessions;
- Transport: Widening eligibility of SATSS (SA Transport Subsidy Scheme) (\$1.2 million increase in 05-06) plus a new program where Carers travel for free when accompanying care recipients; and
- \$13.4 million increase in Home and Community Care for the aged and their Carers and \$6 million respite for older Carers since the last budget.

Executive Director of the Carers Association of SA Inc, Ms Rosemary Warmington says it's heartening to see that the State Government has put mental health high on its priority list.

"We are very pleased that Carers are finally gaining the recognition they deserve, especially since it is the family Carers who save the State Government more than \$2 billion each year by keeping people out of formal care facilities," Ms Warmington said.

Please note: Rosemary Warmington is available for media interviews this evening after 7pm and tomorrow. Please contact Bec Tape on 0438 806 983