



Young Carer Statistics

October 2006 Update

- 1 out of 6 Carers (17%) are young Carers (0-24 years old). (ABS)
- 1 in 10 young people aged between 15-24 have caring responsibilities. (ABS)
- In South Australia 14,800 young people under the age of 18 provide a caring role for a family member. Of these there are an estimated 10,200 under the age of 15, with over 600 under the age of 9 providing a caring role. (ABS)
- International research shows that caring impacts negatively on young Carers educational opportunities: 70% or more of young Carers stated that their educational opportunities had been affected by their caring responsibilities. (Carers Australia).
- Only 4% of young primary Carers between the ages of 15-25 are still at school compared to 23% of the general population aged 15 to 25. (ABS)
- 56% of young primary Carers between the ages of 15-25 were not employed or at school compared to 15% for the general population in this age group. (ABS)
- Caring roles undertaken by young Carers are within the context of their families, and not in isolation from caring roles taken on by other family members. Services need to be provided for the whole family. (Carers Australia).
- Young Carers need information to be promoted in ways that they can take notice of and understand. (Carers Australia).
- Workers in the disability, welfare, health or educational fields often do not know how to identify young Carers and even if they do, are often unaware of the needs of young Carers and how to meet them.
- Young Carers are a hidden group: anecdotal figures show that formal figures are likely to be underestimations.

ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) figures are from the 1998 and 2003 Disability Ageing and Carers surveys.