

MEDIA RELEASE
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Carers Count - let's use this election to improve the lives of family and friend carers

In releasing its state election document, 'SA Carers Count: Key issues facing carers', Carers SA is focusing its 'asks' on a set of proposals that will address gaps and improve the effectiveness of current services for carers.

For many years now, Carers SA has been advocating for an adequately funded, integrated suite of support services for carers regardless of the nature of the condition or the age of the person, or people they are caring for.

Carers SA is urging candidates and future members of the South Australian parliament to commit to appropriate representation and support for the 245,000 carers in South Australia and their families by acknowledging their issues and adopting our key commitments to carers.

"Carers SA requests election candidates and Members of Parliament commit to actively support the strategies across the 5 key topical issues carers face: **Carer Health and Wellbeing, Work and Care, Young Carers, Carers Online and Disability and Care**", Carers SA CEO, David Miltz said today.

"It's critical that South Australian carers are provided with services that give them both practical and emotional support as well as giving them a break from their caring role".

"We urge all parties to ensure they support South Australian carers who are caring for people with a disability or mental illness who are not eligible for the NDIS, or where support for the carer is not covered by the NDIS".

"Support is vital for carers as they prepare for and seek employment, or for those who experience high levels of under-employment or unemployment. Many find it difficult to enter, or re-enter career pathways" David said today.

Carers SA calls for all parties to initiate specific initiatives for all South Australian carers to access opportunities for education, training and employment while maintaining their caring role or once their role ends.

Carers SA estimates there to be 30,500 young carers under the age of 25 in South Australia, an average of two to three in every classroom. A caring role has a significant effect on young carers' social, educational, emotional and health needs, impacting their future life opportunities and aspirations. Support for these young carers is essential in order for them to fulfil their potential.

To replace the 245,000 unpaid family carers in South Australia with paid staff would cost the community \$4.8 billion per year.

Carers Count!

To read the full Carers SA campaign document, as well as 1,241 direct messages from carers to members of parliament, click [here](#).

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