

# Media Release

6 April 2023

## Carers from the North West appointed to Minister's Carer Advisory Council

North West Tasmania is set to be well represented on the newly formed Minister's Carer Advisory Council (MCAC), with two local carers appointed to the Council.

Carers Tasmania, the state's Peak Body for informal carers, has welcomed the appointment of five carers with lived experience to the new Minister's Carer Advisory Council (MCAC), including two carers from the North West.

The MCAC will be chaired by the Minister and was created to provide advice and insights on issues affecting carers and will assist in developing and delivering informed, effective, and evidence-based policies, programs, and projects to support and recognise unpaid carers.

The Council's membership also includes Carers Tasmania's CEO, David Brennan and the CEO of Mental Health Families and Friends Tasmania and senior Tasmanian State Service officials.

The newly formed council will play a key role in monitoring the implementation of the Tasmanian Carer Action Plan and annual Tasmanian Government agency reporting requirements.

Among the new appointees is Isabella, a 16-year-old young carer supporting her mother with Multiple sclerosis (MS) and brother with Autism. Frances, 79, who cares for her sister, has also been appointed.

Frances said, "I'm very excited and enthusiastic about this. It's a wonderful opportunity to start fresh in Tasmania and hear directly from carers. I hope this can assist in building up and addressing the barriers they face."

'Age doesn't define whether you end up being a carer or not. I'm very excited to be a member of MCAC to ensure that there is representation at this high level about the experiences and needs of young carers in Tasmania,' said Isabella.

David Brennan, CEO of Carers Tasmania, thanked Minister Nic Street for delivering on the Government's election commitment to formally recognise carers in legislation last week.

He also noted that the regional appointments to the MCAC will help increase understanding of the diverse caring situations and needs across the state, acknowledging that anyone, anytime may become a carer.

“The ability of carers to voice lived experience directly with the Minister through the Advisory Council is another significant and positive step forward.”

Carers Tasmania is committed to working with the Minister's Carer Advisory Council to ensure that the voices of carers are heard and that policies, programs, and projects are developed to support and recognise unpaid carers across the state.

### **About Carers Tasmania**

Carers Tasmania is the peak body representing the more than 80,000 informal carers in the state. Carers Tasmania's vision is for an Australia that values and supports carers. With a mission to work to improve the health, wellbeing, resilience, and financial security of carers and to ensure that caring is a shared responsibility of the family, community, and the government.

Carers Tasmania has offices in Hobart, Launceston, and Burnie.

### **About Carers**

An informal, unpaid carer is often a family member who cares for someone with chronic or life-limiting illness, with mental health ill health, is frail or aged, with disability or alcohol or other drug dependence, or cares for a child under 18 years.

Informal carers are distinct from paid support workers, who are also colloquially called 'carers' but fully employed and remunerated with all the employment benefits. Conversely, family carers perform their caring duties without remuneration, other than minimal carer payments and allowances from the Department of Social Services.

### **Media Contact -**

Nick Upadhyay  
0416 277 677