

# Media Release

6 April 2023

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

Northern Tasmania is set to be represented on the newly formed Minister's Carer Advisory Council (MCAC), with a local carer 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 one carer from the North.

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 appointee is Codie Baylis, 31, a carer for her children with Autism from Youngtown.

Codie Baylis expressed her enthusiasm by saying, "I'm excited and proud to help share the voice of the many amazing carers in our community."

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.

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