

Media Release

Informal carers miss out again

The state's peak body for unpaid family and friend carers, Carers Tasmania, has found that the 2022-2023 State Budget is a mixed bag with little direct support for carers.

"Whilst Tasmania's 80,000 family and friend carers will soon be recognised by legislation, they continue to be left out of meaningful support through the Budget," said Carers Tasmania's CEO David Brennan.

Unpaid family and friend carers contributed \$2.2 billion to the Tasmanian economy through unpaid support for the community's most vulnerable, but in yesterday's budget, informal carers were largely forgotten.

Carers Australia's 'Caring Cost Us'¹ report on the lifetime economic impact of caring on the income and retirement savings of informal carers found carers on average lose \$39,600 in employment income and \$17,700 in superannuation for each year they are a primary carer.

"Successive Budget Priority Statements for support for carers in recent years, such as individual advocacy or support for young carers, have gone unheard and unfunded."

"However, there has been some good news in terms of ongoing investment into the health system, mental health and broadly ageing and disability which will, in turn, support those for whom our carers care" said David Brennan, CEO, Carers Tasmania.

Carers Tasmania welcomes the Government's move toward establishing a Disability Commissioner, further investments into the NDIS, and continued support for older Tasmanians through funding for COTA's Active Ageing Plan.

The Budget commits important additional investments into health, such as hospital upgrades and redevelopments, paired with additional state-wide paramedics and programs such as PACER which provide some reassurance. In addition, it is pleasing to note the focus on improving end-of-life care.

Carers Tasmania also acknowledges support for implementing the Tasmanian Women's Strategy over the next four years as it is estimated that females account for 41,400 (51.7%) of the more than 80,000 carers in Tasmania.²

¹ <https://www.carersaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Final-Economic-impact-income-and-retirement-Evaluate-Report-March-2022.pdf>

² Australian Bureau of Statistics (2021) 44300DO006_2018 Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Tasmania, 2018. Released at 11:30am Wednesday 5 February 2020.



It is pleasing to see continued support and investment into mental health for adults of all ages and adolescents, along with the Alcohol and Drug Reform Agenda and commitments for a specialised eating disorder treatment centre.

Investment into the initiatives of the Child Youth and Wellbeing Strategy and additional supports proposed for Tasmanian schools such as safeguarding officers and additional Psychologists and Social workers are applauded.

“Out of 80,000 informal carers in Tasmania, 11.6% are aged under 25. Carers Tasmania estimates that 1:15 school aged students are a carer.”

“While we are disappointed that the state’s budget has not supported our funding requests, we are hopeful that next year’s budget will address and implement initiatives to support family and friend carers.”

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

Carers provide unpaid care and support to someone with disability, mental ill health, a chronic or life-limiting condition, alcohol or drug dependence or who are frail or aged. Carers are predominantly family members, but may also be friends, neighbours, or colleagues.

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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