



## Carers Tasmania Summary of the Carer Recognition Legislation

In December 2021, we submitted our response to the Carer Recognition Legislation Discussion Paper. This response was informed by feedback we collected from a survey to carers on the topic. In our submission, we included some recommendations along with a list of proposed principles that we envisioned may be used as a Carer Charter of Rights.

We have looked at the proposed draft Bill and summarised the main differences between what we proposed in our initial submission along with the proposed carers charter in the draft Bill.

What we proposed	Proposed in the draft Carers Charter
1. Carers have the right to be recognised, acknowledged, and treated as individuals in their own right, both including and separate from their caring role	1. Carers should be acknowledged as diverse and are to be treated as individuals with their own needs within, and beyond, their roles as carers.
2. Carers have the right for equal access to recognition and support regardless of age, gender identity, sexual orientation, cultural and linguistic background, religious belief, abilities, geographical location, or socio-economic status.	
3. Carers have the right to be routinely identified by Government and workplaces and supported with programs, initiatives, and referrals to support their caring roles, improve their wellbeing and maintain their connectedness to wider society.	4. Carers should be supported to participate in, and contribute to, the social, political, economic and cultural life of Tasmania.
4. Carers have the right to be heard and involved in the planning and provision of care for the person for whom they care, recognising that each has their own rights and responsibilities.	6. Carers' knowledge about the persons for whom they are caring should be respected, acknowledging that each carer, and each person being cared for, has both rights and responsibilities.
5. Carers of all diverse social groups have the right to co-design development and evaluation of policies, programs and services that affect them and those for whom they care.	2. Carers should be consulted in relation to the development of programs, and the provision of resources, in so far as those programs and resources affect their role as carers.

6. Carers have the right to access programs and initiatives that optimise their health, social and personal wellbeing, and support economic security through educational and employment opportunities.	3. Carers should be empowered to access information and services that are relevant to them in their role as carers.
7. Carers have the right to complain about decisions and services that affect them and their caring role and for their complaints to be resolved promptly and without fear of reprisal to them or to the person for whom they care.	7. Carers should be able to raise concerns about decisions, and services, that affect them as carers or the persons for whom they are caring, without the carers or such persons suffering adverse repercussions.  8. Carers' concerns about decisions, and services, that affect them as carers or that affect the persons for whom they are caring, are to be dealt with as promptly as reasonably practicable.
8. Carers have the right to expect properly resourced support from Tasmanian Government and Local Governments.	
9. Carers have the right to access the essential services that they need to live, including affordable housing and financial support	
	5. Carers should be respected for their valuable role in supporting persons in those persons' homes and in supporting them to access, and engage in, a wide range of services

### **Our proposed carer definition:**

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.

### **Carer definition proposed in the draft Bill:**

“Carer means a person who provides unpaid care and support to a family member, or friend, who –

- (a) has a disability, within the meaning of the Disability Services Act 2011; or
- (b) has a mental illness; or
- (c) has a chronic or life-limiting condition; or
- (d) is alcohol or drug-dependent; or
- (e) is frail or aged.”

It is important to highlight that despite the proposed Carer Recognition Act 2022 including recognition in the title, the word recognition is not specifically noted in any of the items in the Charter.