

Media Release

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Carers Tasmania supports better national recognition of unpaid carers

Carers Tasmania, the state's Peak Body for informal carers, has today welcomed the tabling of the report from the *Inquiry into the Recognition of Unpaid Carers*.

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs Committee examined the challenges faced by unpaid carers across Australia and has recommended options for reforming the Commonwealth's *Carer Recognition Act 2010*.

Carers Tasmania CEO Dr Samantha Fox said, "Carers Tasmania broadly supports the recommendations in the Inquiry report, which are hoped to create greater recognition of carers in government service delivery, leading to more carers accessing appropriate support."

"It is pleasing that some of our suggestions have been considered and included in this report," Dr Fox said.

"For example, as we requested, the report recommends updating the definition of carer to be more inclusive of a wider range of carers.

"The inclusion of carers supporting people with alcohol or other drug dependence in the definition of carer has been recommended, which is something we advocated for to enable alignment with our Tasmanian legislation.

"Updating the language from mental illness to mental ill health is also an important step and one that we also advocated for.

"Overall, the recommendations are positive and a good start towards a more inclusive approach to supporting informal carers.

"Carers Tasmania looks forward to seeing the implementation of these recommendations and strongly encourages authentic co-design and collaboration with carers along the way. We thank the Committee for their support for informal carers and consideration of our suggestions."

The report, which includes 22 recommendations, is available [here](#).

The report also recommends changes to the legislation that will better recognise carers who identify as:

- First Nations carers
- Culturally and linguistically diverse carers
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer/questioning, asexual and other sexually or gender diverse (LGBTIQ+) carers
- Young carers (under 25 years).

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

A carer is a person who provides unpaid care and support to a family member or friend with disability, mental ill health, a chronic or life-limiting condition, alcohol or other drug dependence, or who is frail or aged. Informal kinship carers who care for a child under the age of 18 because the parent is unable to are also recognised as carers. 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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