

MEDIA RELEASE

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An ACT that Cares for Carers – Better Support When It Matters

The Chief Minister's budget announcement that the ACT Government will provide support to develop and implement an ACT Carer's Strategy in partnership with Carers ACT is a welcome initiative for around 46,000 unpaid carers in the ACT, according to Ms Lisa Kelly, CEO Carers ACT.

"The ACT Carer's Strategy will guide policy development and the delivery of government and community-led programs and activities and Carers ACT is pleased to partner with the ACT Government on this initiative to support and improve outcomes for ACT carers," Ms Kelly said.

"The key message in our 2016 ACT Legislative Assembly election campaign was ['An ACT that Cares for Carers'](#) and we are pleased that a deliberative democracy process will be used to consult with carers and community members to develop an ACT Carer's Strategy.

"Carers ACT is proud to be part of the initiative to create a Carer's Strategy for the ACT that hears the voices of unpaid carers and acknowledges the role and value they bring to their families and the community. The inclusion of carers in the development of the Strategy will ensure that actions meet needs and enhance the lives of carers. "We are confident that higher funding commitments to fully implement the programs and activities included in the ACT Carer's Strategy will be forthcoming in future ACT budgets, and will recognise the valuable social and economic contribution of unpaid ACT carers who support family members or friends with a disability, chronic illness, mental health disorder, alcohol or drug dependency, dementia or who are frail aged to our community.

"The estimated saving to the government and the community to replace the care provided by the 46,000 ACT carers with formal age and disability care services is approximately \$1 billion each year. We are confident that the Chief Minister and the Government will continue to honour their commitment to valuing the contribution carers make to the community and that this will translate to further funding in coming budgets to ensure the Strategy is fully implemented." Ms Kelly said.

"Whilst we welcome the commitment of \$200,000 in the Budget, we are sure that this Government is committed to showing how much they value the contribution of the 10,000 unpaid primary carers in the ACT who provide more than 20 hours support per week to a level higher than this."

Carers ACT acknowledges the contribution carers make to the ACT community and economy and we thank them for this. We also acknowledge the voices of the carers who will work with us and the government to create a strategy that brings about real change.

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