

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## NDIS falls short in meeting outcomes for ACT carers

A recent Carers ACT survey of carers and the impact of the NDIS on their caring role found that the NDIS had not improved outcomes for many carers in the ACT.

“With a primary goal to improve the level of services people with disability receive under the NDIS, an expected NDIS outcome was carers would have more time to pursue work, education and other activities because of reduced time they spent caring,” Ms Lisa Kelly General Manager Carer and Community Services at Carers ACT said.

“Carers ACT is concerned that our initial analysis indicated that without an adequate level of good and consistent replacement care built into an individual’s NDIS package the capacity of carers to continue to care is reduced, especially as carers age and have poorer health.

“While 49% of carers who responded to the survey felt the level of the support for the NDIS participant had increased, 57% didn’t feel an individual’s NDIS support provided them with a break from caring, 29% felt it provided them with a break and 14% weren’t sure.

“Survey results also indicated a carer’s capacity to participate in other activities:

- Employment: 35% of respondents felt there was no change in their ability to meet existing work commitments or seek new employment, 27% felt it was harder, while 11% felt it was easier.
- Education: Almost half of the respondents felt this was not relevant to them. If relevant, 55% of respondents felt there was no change in their ability to spend more time on their education or commence education, 27% found that it was harder, and 18% felt it was easier.
- More time for yourself: 47% felt it’s the same, 35% felt it’s less and 18% felt they had more time for themselves.

“More analysis of how the impact of caring has changed under the NDIS is needed, particularly the economic benefits to the ACT workforce of carers of people with disability entering or increasing their hours of work due to the implementation of the NDIS. This is unlikely to occur unless there is more clarity about how to support carers through consistent replacement care, flexible employment and appropriate training,” Ms Lisa Kelly said.

The largest group of people being cared for by carers respondents were young children, and the average age of the care recipient was 27 years, the youngest age was 4 years and the oldest age was 65 years.

Care recipients either had a physical or psychosocial disability and some had more than one type of disability.

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