

21 July 2022

CARERS STRATEGY FUNDING IS A WELCOME INVESTMENT IN CARERS AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

The value of unpaid carers in our community was recognised today in the 2022-2023 Budget, with a funding package announced to progress the outcomes of the ACT Carers Strategy.

The four-year package valued at \$825, 000 is a significant commitment to achieving a 'Canberra that Cares for Carers', and ensures that the ACT continues to recognise and value carer contributions, and support those caring for the most vulnerable members of our community.

Developed for and by carers in 2017 (in collaboration with government and Carers ACT) the Strategy has already delivered positive impacts on carer recognition and rights, and the eagerly awaited follow-up funding package will be critical to building further community capacity to care for each other.

Carers ACT has welcomed this step forward and said that this next tranche of funding will deliver increased community awareness, as well as tangible practical outcomes for more than 50,000 unpaid carers who provide daily care and assistance to people with disabilities, chronic health, and mental health conditions, are frail aged or require palliative care.

"Funding for the Strategy goes beyond being a win for the regions existing carers; it is also a critical investment in community resilience and a creating a culture of shared care." Ms. Lisa Kelly, CEO of Carers ACT said.

"Caring impacts all of us – or it will at some stage of our life. It's important that everyone is able to take up the mantle of being a carer when needed, and that they can still thrive while performing this vital role. We know that carers typically have poorer health, wellbeing, social and financial outcomes personally, while contributing enormously to the community. The Strategy seeks to lessen these disadvantages experienced by carers, and increase recognition for the often invisible responsibility carried by carers." Ms Kelly explained.

"Now more than ever, we need to recognise the value of carers, acknowledge the cost of caring and make sustainable care-giving an ongoing community resilience priority. Funding the ACT Carers Strategy is an excellent step in sharing the responsibility of care and we are deeply grateful to the carers, government, service providers and members of the Community Services Directorate who started this journey in 2016 and who continue to invest in a Canberra that cares for Care

-statement ends-

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