

# Media Release



For Immediate Release  
Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2007

## **G.E. SHAW SHOW HOW CORPORATE PHILANTHROPY IS DONE PROVIDING FOUNDATIONS FOR ACT FAMILY CARERS TO TAKE A BREAK**

Tomorrow, G.E. Shaw's Managing Director Valdis Luks will present Carers ACT with a cheque for \$37,000, to go towards giving unpaid family Carers a break from their demanding and largely unrewarded role.

Carers ACT CEO, Dee McGrath, said 'G.E. Shaw's continued support for Carers ACT is a testament to their commitment to the ACT community and the some 43,000 Carers who are part of it. The ongoing partnership strengthens the support for Canberrans caring for their loved ones, in a way that could not be achieved through current funding sources. It sets a great example of corporate philanthropy and as such, Carers ACT has nominated their partnership with G.E. Shaw for the Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Community Business Partnerships 2007.'

The funds were raised by the Canberra construction company G.E. Shaw & Associates through a charity bowls event in March this year. This is the second major donation made to Carers ACT by G.E. Shaw, with last year's event raising over \$28,000.

Short breaks away have been identified as one of the greatest areas of need for family Carers facing financial hardship, but are outside the scope of Carers ACT's Government funded programs. The financial contribution of G.E. Shaw means that Carers ACT can provide breaks from day trips up to a week's holiday depending on the need or crisis. This might include respite accommodation for the care recipient while the Carer takes this short break. There is no other initiative like this in the ACT.

Carers ACT provide direct support for people who have taken on caring responsibilities, including information, counselling, respite and education. The role of Carers ACT is to participate in a partnership with Government and the Non-Government sector for the provision of better services, to improve the conditions under which Carers live, and to increase recognition of Carers' contribution to the ACT community.

There are as many as 700,000 non-profit organisations in Australia. The Giving Australia report published in October 2005 estimates the giving of money, goods and services to non-profit organisations by individuals and businesses to total \$11 billion per year. This amount is said to be growing.

### **Interview and Photo Opportunity:**

#### ***Handing over the cheque***

3pm Thursday, 3rd April 2007

Carers ACT

Suite 5, Ground Floor, Belconnen Churches Centre

54 Benjamin Way BELCONNEN ACT 2617 (free parking available for 3 hours at Westfield south)

**Interviews can be arranged with:** Dee McGrath, CEO, Carers ACT; Valdis Luks, Managing Director, G.E. Shaw; and Family Carers who have benefited from past G.E. Shaw contributions

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