



Media Release

Carers ACT on National Carers Strategy

3 August 2011

Carers ACT welcomes today's release of the National Carer Strategy by the Australian Government, and urges the ACT Government to use it as a framework for improving the lives of the Territory's 43,000 family Carers.

The strategy reflects the Government commitment to Carers and Carers ACT fully supports its vision that Carers are valued and respected by society and that they have rights, choices, opportunities and capabilities to participate in economic, social and community life.

During the Government's consultation process, a strong message from Carers in the ACT was that the strategy must lead to real improvements in their lives. Dee McGrath, Carers ACT Chief Executive Officer, says for this to happen, how the strategy is implemented will be crucial.

"We now need more detail on the initiatives set out in the strategy, including clear timelines and measurable performance indicators," she said.

Ms McGrath hopes the ACT Government will adopt the Strategy as a framework from which to develop concrete plans to address policy and service gaps which are currently impacting on the quality of life of Carers.

"Carers in the ACT are telling us that there is a significant shortage of accommodation options for people with disabilities and mental illness. We also need more options for young people with a disability when they leave school."

Carers ACT looks forward to working with the ACT Government on ensuring the National Carers Strategy is a success in the Territory, and with Carers Australia on its broader implementation.

For general media enquiries please contact Duncan McLeod at 041 6523 661 and for interviews, Dee McGrath on 041 9012 094