



## Katy Gallagher MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

MINISTER FOR HEALTH

MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

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MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO

Ms Dee McGrath  
[deem@carersact.asn.au](mailto:deem@carersact.asn.au)

Dear Ms McGrath

Thank you for your email of 4 August 2011 about the launch of the National Carer Strategy by the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, The Honourable Jenny Macklin MP, the Minister for Health and Ageing, Nicola Roxon MP, and the Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers, Senator Jan McLucas.

The ACT welcomes the Australian Government's release of the National Carer Strategy. It will provide a framework for collaborative work that responds to the diverse and changing needs of carers in our community.

I am advised that Senior Officers from Community Services Directorate (CSD) participated in the consultation process and development phase of the National Strategy to ensure it reflected and complimented the work being undertaken in the ACT to assist carers.

As you would be aware, CSD is finalising an ACT Carer's Charter that we expect to launch later this year.

I note that your press release states that carers are looking to access more post school options for their children and I am advised that Disability ACT offers two forms of support to young people with a disability who have left school and who are not yet able to undertake full-time employment or further study, or access Australian Government employment and services:

1. A Transition Service assists young people to build vocational skills through individual planning, training, and volunteer work as well as developing skills and making connections within their community. This service starts while the young person is still in school and continues for up to three years after the person leaves school.
2. Ongoing Community Access support assists people with high support needs who require alternatives to employment. This can either be through access to an established provider or through provision of an Individual Support Package (ISP).

The 2011/12 ACT Budget provided an additional \$10.3m over 4 years allocated to disability support services. A sustained response will be provided to individuals who require support as a result of breakdown of natural and/or formal supports and who are transitioning from school to adult life. The initiative also provides specialist after school care and holiday support for young people with complex behaviour, including with autism and other developmental delays.

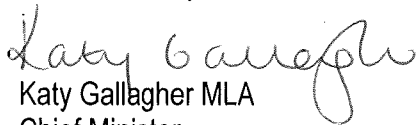
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Thank you for writing to me and providing a copy of your press release, I hope you found this information useful. I look forward to working with Carers ACT to continue our support for carers in our community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katy Gallagher".

Katy Gallagher MLA  
Chief Minister

17 August 2011