



RECOGNITION OF CARERS NEEDS IN ACT BUDGET

Carers ACT welcomed the announcement of a number of initiatives in today's ACT budget that would see more, much needed support for Carers and their families.

Dee McGrath, CEO, Carers ACT said today: "It's encouraging to see that the ACT Government has listened and has put in place some good initiatives which address a number of pressing needs for those who care for family members who have a disability or mental illness."

In their budget submission to the ACT Government, Carers ACT sought specific support for after school and holiday care for children with disabilities to enable parents to participate in the paid workforce as well as support for school leavers with disabilities. The budget announced 10 places in after school care and 10 places in school holiday programs in addition to a \$20million school program supporting children with disabilities plus extension of 15 post school support places over the next two years.

"We welcome the Government's inclusion of an intentional community to house people with disability as part of the social housing expansion initiative. This is a very positive start but given the significant levels of demand for supported housing for people with disability and mental illness, we look forward to seeing better planning and investment in addressing this priority need in the next budget,' Ms McGrath added.

Shortage of supported accommodation options in the ACT means that many young people with a disability are forced to remain living at home and do not have the same opportunities as other young people to move out of home and live in the community with some degree of independence. For people with a mental illness, lack of supported accommodation options means that family care may be the only thing stopping them from being homeless.

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