

ACT Government Media Release
ACT Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services Joy Burch
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Carers ACT to manage the Carers Advocacy Service

ACT Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services Joy Burch today announced Carers ACT as the successful tenderer for the new Carers Advocacy Service.

The Carers Advocacy Service will provide Carers with a central point of access to information on a range of matters, including respite care, financial and legal advice, education and training opportunities, and employment and community activities.

The service was funded in the 2010-11 ACT Budget, which committed \$424,000 over four years. Ms Burch said she was pleased this important service would be delivered by an organisation with a good record for service delivery.

"Carers ACT provide valuable support for carers in our community," Ms Burch said.

"I am confident that the organisation will work cooperatively with other Carers services to streamline the way Carers access supports in the ACT."

The new service will provide advocacy to improve individual and systemic outcomes and to ensure Carers in the ACT are not disadvantaged by their caring role.

"The service will provide assistance for Carers in dealing with complex issues such as Guardianship hearings, completing forms and achieving early access to counselling."

Ms Burch said the ACT Government recognises the important role of carers in the ACT.

"The Carers Advocacy Service is being established as a direct request from the caring community. The announcement of Carers ACT as the successful tenderer for the service coincides with the community consultation process on the proposed ACT Carers Charter."

The Carers Advocacy Service is expected to be operational in 2011."

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