

Media Release



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Carers Australia is the recognised national voice of Australian carers. Our members are the carers associations in each state and territory. We have no political affiliation. We work with all parties to achieve better outcomes for all carers. We believe that all carers are entitled to the same rights, choices and opportunities as other Australians.

Family carers considered in aged care reforms

Carers Australia welcomes the proposed reforms outlined in the Productivity Commission's draft report, *'Caring for Older Australians'*.

Carers Australia President Tim Moore said, 'It is encouraging to see that, as part of the proposed aged care reforms, the needs of unpaid family carers have been acknowledged and considered.'

'Unpaid family carers are a fundamental part of the aged care system, and to implement any reforms without assessing the impact on carers and addressing their needs would undermine any future aged care system.'

Everyday family carers are managing medication, managing finances, providing emotional support and managing complex health conditions, as well as fulfilling many other roles. The strain of these responsibilities can result in social isolation, poor health and wellbeing, and financial inequality.

The proposed reforms would see the needs of family carers assessed at the same time as those requiring care. This is a positive step forward and one which addresses concerns Carers Australia heard regularly in our recent consultations with carers around the country.

'Many of the concerns we frequently hear from carers have been considered in these proposals. The need for accessible information, timely and appropriate respite, and workplace flexibility are all major factors in carer health and wellbeing,' said Tim Moore.

'The inclusion and consideration of carer needs across reforms in all sectors would be to the benefit of all.'

Carers Australia welcomes these proposals and looks forward to working with the Productivity Commission in the production of their final report.

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