

# 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.

## **\$5.3 billion worth of good news for people with a disability, their families and carers**

Carers Australia welcomes the Australian Government's announcement of \$5.3 billion as the foundation for a new National Disability Agreement reached at the COAG meeting on the weekend.

"While these funds are much needed and certainly welcome, it is the leadership this Government is showing in terms of reform that makes this announcement exciting" said Carers Australia President Pam Webster.

According to the COAG communiqué each State will improve access to disability care, including consideration of a single point of access. This, along with nationally-consistent assessment processes and a quality assurance system, will help to build end to end disability services systems.

Another positive change is that indexation for this funding has gone from 1.8% to 6%. This is very good news for carers as it will help keep up with increasing service costs and inflation.

"The proof will obviously be in the delivery, but the signs so far indicate the Rudd Government is heading in the right direction for people with a disability and carers" said Ms Webster. "The National Disability Agreement reached on the weekend shows the Rudd Government is not only listening to the concerns of people with a disability, carers and their families, but is also prepared to act."

Carers Australia believes it is vital to ensure the views of people with a disability and their carers continue to inform the implementation of this new agreement so that the services delivered match the needs of families.

"We don't underestimate the challenge that the Government has set for itself but this announcement is a positive step towards a sustained future for the services and supports for carers and people with a disability" said Ms Webster.

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