

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.

Carers Australia underestimates carers' influence on election

The President of Carers Australia, Mr Ben Chodziesner, has admitted today that his organisation may have underestimated how significant carer issues might be in the current election following the release of new survey findings.

The Taskforce on Care Costs (TOCC) commissioned Newspoll to conduct the survey last weekend. They found that nearly one in three voters would be a lot more likely to vote for a particular party if that party made a commitment to provide additional support to carers of the aged and people with a disability.

"We have been saying for some time that more than a quarter of the population has a direct interest in the issues that affect unpaid family carers" said Mr Chodziesner "What this new survey shows is the wider community support for carers and their families.

"It reinforces our warning that candidates would be taking a huge risk if they fail to address the needs of carers."

Carers Australia launched an election campaign last month that provided candidates from all parties background information to some of the major issues affecting carers today.

The campaign, *If you don't care, why should we?* lists five key areas where urgent attention is required – Integrated support for carers, Carer financial security, Carer workforce participation, Carer health and wellbeing, and Carer education and training.

"We wrote to the leaders of all parties currently represented in parliament back in June to let them know about these issues" said Mr Chodziesner "It is now time they presented their vision for a secure future for carers."

The details of Carers Australia's election platform are available at www.ifyoudontcare.com.au.

14-20 October is Carers Week. Held right across Australia, Carers Week was established to promote and raise awareness of the valuable role that carers play in our community and to generate discussion about carer issues. More info is available at www.carersweek.com.au.

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