

31 October 2007

Carers NSW challenges Coffs' politicians to show their support for carers

In the lead-up to the 2007 federal election, Carers NSW is challenging federal politicians in the Coffs Harbour area to outline their parties' commitment to carers at a debate to be held on Monday 5 November 2007.

Cowper Nationals sitting member Luke Hartsuyker MP and standing Labor candidate Mr Paul Sekfy have agreed to participate in the debate, which will be held at the Coffs Harbour Ex-Services Club.

CEO of Carers NSW, Elena Katrakis, said the event will help voters concerned about carers' issues decide which box to tick at the polling booth.

"We are asking local politicians to outline their party's policy for carers, what that will mean for the Cowper electorate, and why people in Cowper who are concerned about carers and the people they care for should vote for them," said Ms Katrakis.

Carers Australia, the national parent organisation for all Australian carers associations including Carers NSW, recently launched an election campaign with the slogan, '*if you don't care why should we?*', which asks the federal government to take into account five key areas where support for carers needs to be improved.

Their election campaign website, www.ifyoudontcare.com.au, says the campaign is not about taking sides, but instead aims to generate public discussion – and, ultimately, find workable solutions.

Echoing this, Ms Katrakis said, "Carers NSW is committed to a non-partisan approach to carer issues both in NSW and federally. At this debate we will be asking Cowper candidates on all sides of politics to describe their commitment to carers and the people they care for in the local area."

Members of the public are strongly encouraged to attend the debate and table questions for their local politicians. Participants will have five to ten minutes to address the audience before responding to questions.

When: Monday 5 November 2007, 1pm

Where: Blue Room, Coffs Harbour Ex-Services Club, Cnr Pacific Highway & Vernon Streets, Coffs Harbour

More details: Scott Berry, Carers NSW Project Manager, 02 9280 4744 or 0430 202 757

Local media are invited to attend AND ask questions of participants at the end of the session.

Media contact

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