

14 October 2008

## **NSW Carers to benefit from the Federal Government down payment**

Carers NSW welcomes the Federal Government's \$4.8 billion down payment announced today for carers, seniors and other pensioners.

Under today's announcement, carers receiving the Carer Payment will receive a one-off lump sum payment of \$1,400 for singles and \$2,100 for couples.

Carers receiving the Carer Allowance will also receive \$1,000 for each eligible person being cared for.

All payments will be made automatically through Centrelink and the Department of Veterans Affairs in the fortnight beginning 8 December 2008.

"Carers NSW welcomes this measure as a great first step until the implementation of longer term reform, expected to follow on from the Pension Review and the Better Support for Carers Senate Inquiry, both due early next year," said Carers NSW CEO, Elena Katrakis.

"A national survey, *Who Cares? The Ethics of Caring in a Good Society: national conversation, national action*, is underway and provides an opportunity for all Australians to contribute to the wider discussion on caring in our society," she said.

*To join this online discussion, which is a partnership between Carers NSW, Macquarie Group Foundation and the St James Ethics Centre, go to [www.ethics.org.au](http://www.ethics.org.au).*

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