

21 April 2010

## NSW Government tables Carer Recognition Bill

In NSW Parliament today, the NSW Health Minister and Deputy Premier, Carmel Tebbutt, introduced the Carers (Recognition) Bill 2010.

In her speech to the House, the Deputy Premier acknowledged the 750,000 carers in NSW.

“Because they [carers] are, often, not paid for what they do, their contribution to our society does not register in economic statistics or analyses of national well-being,” she said. “But without them our society - and our economy - simply would not work the way it does.”

The Deputy Premier also acknowledged the work of Carers NSW in developing carers’ legislation.

“Honourable Members would be aware that Andrew Constance MP, the Shadow Minister for Ageing and Disability, also introduced proposed carers recognition legislation to this House last month ... and I acknowledge the input to both that Bill and the Government’s Carers (Recognition) Bill provided by Carers NSW,” said the Deputy Premier.

The Carers (Recognition) Bill 2010 will establish a Carers Charter and a Carers Advisory Council, appointed by the Minister to work to advance the interests of carers and to review and make recommendations on legislation, policy or other matters having a significant impact on carers that have been referred to it.

The Carers Charter will establish 13 principles relating to carers to guide agencies in supporting carers. It will ensure carers’ voices are heard in important decisions that affect them, in their caring role, and the people they are caring for.

“While we are uncertain how the current situation will be resolved, with two tabled Bills, one from the Opposition and one from the Government, it is wonderful that we now have both sides of Government in NSW committed to supporting carers,” said Elena Katrakis, CEO of Carers NSW.

“The next step is ensuring carers’ legislation is enacted in NSW. Action is overdue and carers shouldn’t wait any longer.”

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