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## Carer named NSW Woman of the Year

Carers NSW wishes to acknowledge Cheryl Koenig who has been named NSW Woman of the year, following years of tireless campaigning to raise awareness of acquired brain injuries.



Sydney mother Cheryl received the accolade from Premier Nathan Rees at a dinner at Parliament House yesterday evening.

Cheryl has cared for her son Jonathon, who has a brain injury, for the past 11 years. She has courageously shared her experiences through her book *Paper Cranes*, which details the story of her son's tragic car accident and the journey that followed.

Cheryl is also a Carers NSW Carer Representative and dedicates much of her time to guest speaking and raising awareness of carers as well as brain injury.

"I accepted the award on behalf of all women carers in NSW," Cheryl said.

"It's an acknowledgment of the often tireless and unrecognised work they do, day in day out."

"This award is thoroughly deserved," said the CEO of Carers NSW, Ms Elena Katrakis.

"The dedication and courage Cheryl has shown in sharing her own experiences to help others is truly admirable."

"Carers NSW would like to congratulate Cheryl on this achievement."

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*Carers are family members or friends who provide unpaid care for people with a disability, mental health problem, chronic condition or who are frail aged. Carers NSW is the peak organisation for carers in New South Wales and the only state-wide organisation that has carers as its primary focus.*