

25 November 2009

Caroline Jones to pay tribute to carers

Esteemed broadcaster and journalist Caroline Jones will present the Annual Clare Stevenson Memorial Lecture, following the Carers NSW Annual General Meeting on Thursday 26 November at NSW Parliament House.

The lecture is held to honour Clare Stevenson, the founder of Carers NSW. Clare worked tirelessly for unpaid family carers over many decades, and began the association in 1975 as its President. As a result of Clare's lobbying and representations over a number of years, in November 1985 the Carers Pension was introduced, bringing financial relief to thousands of carers, many of whom had to give up their jobs to look after parents, siblings and friends at home. Clare was made both a Member of the Order of the British Empire and a Member of the Order of Australia for her services to the community during her lifetime.

Caroline Jones was herself a carer, for her father and step-mother – a journey she chronicles through her 2009 book *Through a Glass Darkly: A Journey of Love and Grief with my Father*. She is also one of Australia's best known broadcasters, having worked for the ABC for more than 40 years on current affairs programs such as *This Day Tonight*, *Four Corners* as well as Sydney morning radio. She is also well known as a special contributor and presenter of the Walkley award-winning show *Australian Story*.

"Carers NSW is thrilled to have Caroline delivering the lecture this year. As well as her reputation as a journalist and a story teller, Caroline brings with her an understanding of carers and the caring experience," said Elena Katrakis, CEO of Carers NSW.

"The Annual General Meeting is a time where Carers NSW outlines its yearly achievements and looks forward to the year ahead. The Clare Stevenson Lecture, which follows, is a chance for us to think more deeply about carers, their place within society and how we can better support carers in the future. Caroline will no doubt bring some valuable reflections with her."

When: Thursday 26 November
Annual General Meeting – 4:00pm
Clare Stevenson Memorial Lecture – 5:00 pm

Where: The Theatrette, NSW Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney

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A carer is any individual who provides unpaid care and support to a family member or friend who has a disability, mental illness, drug and alcohol dependencies, chronic condition, terminal illness or who is frail.