

CEO Message 13 August 2010:

From 1 October 2010 Carers NSW will no longer be delivering the Family and Carer Mental Health Program in NSW. Following an open tender process undertaken by NSW Health, Carers NSW has been advised that its application to deliver the program has been unsuccessful.

The impact of this news on our carers, staff and the organisation as a whole cannot be underestimated. Carers NSW has successfully delivered this program in the North Coast, Greater West, and South East Sydney/Illawarra areas for many years, providing much needed support and advocacy, and education and training to carers. While the Program will continue, Carers NSW will no longer be delivering it. NSW Health will be announcing the new providers in the next few weeks.

As a result of this decision our regional offices in Nowra, Bulli, Orange, Broken Hill, Wauchope, and Alstonville will close from 1 October.

Coffs Harbour and Dubbo offices will remain open providing key supports to rural and regional carers.

Carers NSW continues to be the peak body for all carers in NSW and continues to support carers. Our extensive work and advocacy will remain and we continue to deliver the following programs:

- National Carer Counselling Program (NCCP)
- Carer Line 1800 242 636
- Young Carer Program
- Older Parent Carer Support Co-ordination Program
- My Plan, My Choice (mid North Coast)

Carers NSW also provides a broad range of Education and Training programs for carers and service providers, has a comprehensive policy team, and a carer representation program.

Further advice in relation to the new providers of this program will be posted once they are announced.

Elena Katrakis
CEO