

11 March 2010

Carers Recognition Bill to be introduced into NSW Parliament

On Friday 12 March at 10am, the MP for Bega, the Hon. Andrew Constance MP, will introduce a Private Member's Bill into NSW Parliament calling for a Carers Recognition Act in NSW.

This historic event follows years of advocating for this legislation by Carers NSW – the peak organisation for carers in NSW.

The Bill itself has been drafted in very close consultation with Carers NSW, and through its enactment, will bring NSW in line with other states and territories in having legislation that recognises and supports carers. Most significantly, the legislation will identify carers as individuals in their own right (not just in relation to those they care for) with their own right to assessment for their own support needs.

The NSW Carers Recognition Bill 2010 will establish a NSW Carers Charter and a NSW Ministerial Advisory Council for Carers, which will be co-chaired by the relevant Ministers responsible for carers. The majority of Council members will be current carers from the diversity of disability, frail aged, chronic and mental illness sectors.

"For the 750,000 carers in NSW this is definitely an important step in the right direction," said Laraine Toms, President of Carers NSW.

"I look forward to attending Parliament with carers to hear this important legislation being tabled."

"The next step will be for all NSW MPs to get behind the Carers Recognition Bill and see that it gets passed. The welfare and support of carers are beyond politics and this legislation needs comprehensive support," said Ms Toms.

What: Introduction of Carers Recognition Bill

Where: NSW Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney

When: 10am, Friday 12 March 2010

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