

# Media Release



7 September 2010

Carers Australia is the recognised national voice of Australian carers. Our members are the carers associations in each state and territory. We have no political affiliation. We work with all parties to achieve better outcomes for all carers.

## Carers Australia congratulates the Gillard Government

Carers Australia congratulates the Gillard Government on forming Australia's 43<sup>rd</sup> Parliament. Carers Australia looks forward to working with the new government to ensure better support and services for Australia's unpaid family carers.

Tim Moore, President Carers Australia said, 'now government has been established we urge Parliament to ensure that the National Carers Recognition legislation is debated and receives smooth passage through both houses and we can move forward with the National Carer Strategy.

Almost 2.6 million Australians provide care for family members, relatives or friends with a disability, mental illness, chronic condition, terminal illness or who are frail. The annual replacement value of the vital care all carers provide is over \$30.5 billion. 'It makes sound economic and political sense for the government to acknowledge and invest in better support for family carers now and into the future.'

The new government provides an excellent opportunity for all in Parliament to focus on the contribution to society and community of Australia's family carers who reside in regional and remote areas and in our towns and cities.

The Gillard government's improved focus on rural and remote health must include better support for family carers many of whom continue to struggle to access services.

**For media inquiries contact Edward Allpress on 02 6122 9917 or 043 4085 194**