

Peter Primrose MLC

Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services
Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering



Wednesday, August 11, 2010

Outstanding carers to be recognised

Individuals or organisations that make an outstanding contribution to caring for a person with a disability in the community are to be recognised through new awards to be introduced by the Keneally Government this year.

The Minister for Disability Services, Peter Primrose, said that more than 90 awards would be presented covering every community in the State.

Mr Primrose said that Members of Parliament, along with Carers NSW, would recommend recipients and ask constituents for nominations.

The award winners will be announced during Carers' Week celebrations in October.

"These new awards are a further step in publicly recognising the vital social and economic contribution that carers made to society," Mr Primrose said.

"Carers go about their work quietly out of the public eye and for this reason they don't get the credit that they deserve.

"There are 750,000 carers in NSW, which equals more than one person in every 10, and 90,000 of those carers are under 25-years old."

Mr Primrose said that carers had been formally recognised in New South Wales through the *Carers (Recognition) Act 2010*, which was assented to in May 2010 with bipartisan support.

He said that as Minister for Disability Services, he would have responsibility for the new Act and for broader carers policy in New South Wales.

"The Keneally Government is strongly committed to those 750,000 carers who provide such valuable support to their loved ones and to the community as a whole," Mr Primrose said.

The NSW Government has also put in place the NSW Carers Action Plan, which was developed to ensure carers are recognised and supported by government agencies.

Achievements under the plan to date include an interagency Young Carers Action Plan that will improve support for children and young people who have caring responsibilities.

For more information visit: www.dadhc.nsw.gov.au/dadhc/Carers/