

Media Release



13 August 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. We believe that all carers are entitled to the same rights, choices and opportunities as other Australians.

Advancing the participation of young carers during the UN International year of youth

At the beginning of the UN International Year of Youth, Carers Australia is calling on all political parties to make a serious commitment to Australia's young carers. At the end of the International Year of Youth we would like to see substantial and sustained improvements in support for young carers which will enable them to fully and effectively participate in all aspects of society.

Carers Australia CEO, Ms Joan Hughes, says 'young carers need access and the opportunity to education and training, and to the workplace, and they need their concerns listened to. Young carers must have the same opportunities to effectively participate in Australian society as do other young Australians. It is the role of our political leaders to see that appropriate initiatives are implemented for this effective participation to become a reality.'

Carers Australia's Election Platform 2010 – Don't wait our future is Now! sets out clear actions to support young carers. These actions include an urgent review of the '25 hour rule', a family approach to service delivery and support, implementation of a national awareness raising campaign for young people designed to identify young carers, and an immediate and substantial increase in funding for the Young Carers Respite and Information Services Program.

Carers Australia has released their 2010 election platform - *Don't Wait our Future is Now!*
The complete platform package can be found at www.carersaustraliaelection2010.com.au

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