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## **Carers exempt from increases to motor vehicle weight charge**

Carers NSW applauds the NSW Government for acknowledging carers must be exempt from a motor vehicle weight charge increase, which is due to commence on July 1, 2010.

The move will ensure that many already financially stressed carers will not be subject to the increased charges. The Government will provide an exemption to the one-off increase in the Motor Vehicle Weight Charge for:

- vehicle owners who receive the Commonwealth Carer Allowance
- wheelchair accessible vehicles registered for personal use

This is in addition to the full exemption from registration charges already available to eligible pensioners. The exemption will be administered by the RTA.

“Carers should never be further financially burdened because of their caring role,” said Elena Katrakis, CEO of Carers NSW.

“Carers of people with disabilities often need wheelchair accessible vehicles or other speciality modifications to their vehicles. This adds to the weight of vehicles.”

“Fortunately the NSW Government has realised this and quickly adjusted the new charge increase to exclude carers.”

NSW Roads Minister, Mr Borger, stressed that the changes will require patience as they come in.

“Our RTA data systems are expansive and people will need to be aware it will take a little time to integrate these changes into the system.”

“It means refunds to carers will have to be done manually in the short term, but importantly eligible carers will be exempt from this charge,” Mr Borger said.

“There are around 750,000 carers in NSW who save the taxpayers around \$10 billion per annum in the cost of replaced informal care with paid workers,” said Ms Katrakis.

“It is vital to ensure governments and community support and value carers and their vital contribution to society.”

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*A carer is any individual who provides unpaid care and support to a family member or friend who has a disability, mental illness, drug and alcohol dependencies, chronic condition, terminal illness or who is frail.*