

## Sample letter to send your MP

<Address>

<Date>

Dear <Mr/Mrs/Ms name> MP,

I write to you regarding the Carers' Recognition Act, being introduced to NSW Parliament by the Hon. Andrew Constance, MP for Bega.

As a member of the community, I urge you to support this Bill.

Currently, NSW has no carer legislation, unlike WA, SA, NT, Qld and ACT. This proposed Private Member's Bill, if passed, will bring us in line with other states and territories in having legislation that recognises and supports carers, and which will provide legislation for proposed Commonwealth legislation to build on.

For the 750,000 carers in NSW, this Bill is an important step forward in better supporting their needs. It will mean that for the first time carers in NSW will have legal recognition. The Bill will have a charter, or set of principles, for all who work with unpaid family carers. It will ensure carers are seen as co-clients with needs in their own right and entitled to their own assessment.

Carers save taxpayers an estimated \$10 billion annually in NSW (the cost of replacing carers providing informal care with paid care workers). As a group, carers are more likely to suffer financial disadvantage, social isolation and lower levels of health and wellbeing than the rest of the population.

Once again, I urge you to support this Bill. All party and Independent support is necessary in order to better support carers living in NSW.

Yours sincerely,

<Your name>

<Contact details if you wish>

*NB 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.*