



MEDIA RELEASE

**PAUL LYNCH MP
MINISTER FOR AGEING
MINISTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS**

20 November 2008

Understanding the needs of young carers

The State Government and Carers NSW are joining forces to identify the needs of young carers through a three-year research project.

Minister for Ageing and Disability Services Paul Lynch said Professor Bettina Cass from the University of New South Wales' Social Policy Research Centre was leading the research effort.

"The findings will assist the NSW Government to better understand how best to support young carers as they seek to combine caring with school, further education or employment," Mr Lynch said.

Speaking at the Carers NSW Annual General Meeting in Sydney, Mr Lynch said the research project was one of a number of measures designed to support the estimated 750,000 carers throughout the State.

Mr Lynch said the NSW Carers Action Plan 2007-2012 detailed the Government's commitment to carers.

"This includes entering into a partnership with Carers NSW to roll out a Working with Carers Training Package," he said.

"The NSW Government is also funding a Carers NSW Young Carers Program," Mr Lynch said.

He said the Government valued the work of carers.

"Some carers provide help, like driving people to medical appointments or picking up some shopping once a week," Mr Lynch said.

"Other carers provide extensive amounts of care and support to another person every day," he said.

MEDIA CONTACT: Andrew Williams 0408 602 936