

State Election Campaign 2014

Commitment 1

Maintain and extend current funding and services to all agencies that support carers in their caring roles and responsibilities by a minimum of the CPI annually

South Australian Carers Charter

1. Carers have choices within their caring role

- (1) Carers should have the same rights, choices and opportunities as other South Australians.
- (2) Carers should be supported by individuals, families, business and community organisations, public institutions and all levels of government in the choices they make in their caring role.

2. Carers' health and well-being are critical to the community

- (1) Carers are entitled to enjoy optimum health, social, spiritual and economic well-being and to participate in family, social and community life, employment and education.
- (2) Carers should be supported to balance their caring role with their own needs.

3. Carers play a critical role in maintaining the fabric of society

4. Service providers work in partnership with carers

- (1) Caring is a social and public responsibility shared by individuals, families, business and community organisations, public institutions and all levels of government.
- (2) Carers should be recognised as individuals with their own needs, within and beyond the caring situations.

5. Carers in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities need specific consideration

6. All children and young people have the right to enjoy life and reach their potential

- (1) Children and young people who are carers should be specifically identified and supported by individuals, business and community organisations, public institutions and all levels of government.

7. Resources are available to provide timely, appropriate and adequate assistance to carers

South Australian Department of Families and Communities (2006): *SA Carers Policy: Supporting Carers* (Accessed 6 February 2014)

<http://www.sa.gov.au/upload/franchise/Community%20Support/Final%20Carers%20Policy.pdf>

Fact Sheet

- **There are an estimated 220,000 carers in South Australia**
- **Carers need carer-specific support to continue in their caring roles and responsibilities**
- **The current level of funding for agencies which support carers can only maintain their current level of services, to the current number of carers, if their funding is adjusted annually by the CPI**
- **To improve support for carers, to make provision for increasing numbers of carers, and to close the gaps in service provision, funding must be increased**

1. Carers are a significant population group:

- in 2012, **carers made up almost 12 % of the population** — one in every eight or nine people is a carer. (ABS 2012)
- as the South Australian population ages, **the number of carers will increase**

2. While the responsibilities of caring can be rewarding, it can **also impact negatively on carers.**

- 50% of carers felt they could provide better care than anyone else
- 37% of primary carers have a disability
- 70% of primary carers are female and more than half of all carers are female

ABS (2012)

- carers have the lowest collective wellbeing of any population group
- carers have an average stress rating that is classified as moderate depression
- in 2012, the median gross personal income per week for a primary carer was \$400, and for a non-carer it was \$600
- 55% of primary carers are on a Government pension or allowance

Carers Australia (2013)

3. The SA Government (2013) lists some of the support services available to carers.

Non-respite services

- carer support groups
- carer retreats
- counselling, in person and by telephone
- information and referral
- advocacy
- young carer programs.

Respite services

- in-home respite
- day care programs
- residential respite for the person cared for (for example, in a residential care facility)
- weekend and holiday programs for the carer, the person cared for, couples or for the whole family
- recreation activities in the community
- camps for siblings or young carers.

References

Australian Bureau of Statistics (2012): 4430.0 - *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2012* (Accessed 10 February 2014)

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/4430.0Chapter4002012>

Carers Australia (2013): *Submission to the National Commission of Audit* (Accessed 7 February 2014)

<http://www.carersaustralia.com.au/storage/Carers%20Australia%20submission%20to%20the%20%20Commission%20of%20Audit%20-%20December%202013.pdf>

Government of South Australia (2013): *Respite for Carers* (Accessed 7 February 2014)

<http://www.sa.gov.au/subject/Community+support/Carers/Help+and+support+for+carers/Respite+for+carers>

Government of South Australia (2013): *Support for Carers* (Accessed 7 February 2014)

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