

ACT Carers Charter

Discussion Paper and Proposed Charter



ACT Department of Disability, Housing
and Community Services
October 2010

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this discussion paper is to provide background information on a proposed *ACT Carers Charter* (the Charter). The Charter seeks to draw on the experiences of other States and Territories while responding to the unique characteristics of Carers living in the ACT.

While the ACT has a range of policies and legislation that support Carers, an *ACT Carers Charter* (the Charter) would provide further recognition for Carers and renew existing commitments to support Carers in our community. This would be achieved by creating a set of standards that are accessible and easy to understand and by providing Carers with the opportunity to be involved in decisions that impact upon their role in our community.

The ACT Government acknowledges the need to engage Carers, people receiving care, and Carer support services to ensure the Charter responds appropriately to the diverse needs of Carers in the ACT, and to ensure the Charter results in improving the lives of Carers and their families.

Feedback

Responses on the questions included in this discussion paper, or any other comments on the proposed *ACT Carers Charter* are invited until **Friday 3 December 2010**.

Submissions should be made in writing to Strategic Policy, Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services:

Via post to: GPO Box 158
CANBERRA ACT 2601

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BACKGROUND

Key Points

- An *ACT Carers Charter* was a 2008 election commitment.
- The proposed Charter seeks to broaden the definition of carer given by the Commonwealth *Carer Recognition Bill 2010* to be consistent with amendments made under the *ACT Carer Recognition Legislation Amendment Act 2006*, allowing for the inclusion of Grandparents, other Kinship Carers and Foster Carers.
- The ACT was the first jurisdiction in Australia to have a dedicated Carers' policy.
- The ACT Government *Caring for Carers Policy* (2003) provides a framework to recognise and support the diverse needs of people providing unpaid care and support to a person with needs associated with disability, ageing, ongoing physical or mental illness or substance use.
- The *Foster Carers and Kinship Carers Guide*, released in September 2010, provides a framework for supporting the role of Foster Carers and Kinship Carers.
- An *ACT Carers Charter* would apply to all caring relationships, to ensure the rights of all Carers in the ACT are considered and responded to appropriately.

An *ACT Carers Charter* was a 2008 election commitment that recognised the caring relationship between a person and their Carer/s as more than a functional role. This relationship requires individualised support to meet unique needs and to ensure their views are respected in the development of programs and policies that affect them.

In October 2009, the Australian Government announced plans to develop a national Carers' Recognition Act to recognise and support the vital role that Carers contribute to Australian society. The *Carer Recognition Bill 2010* (the Bill) defines Carers as "an individual who provides personal care, support and assistance to another individual who needs it because that other individual has a disability, a medical condition, a mental illness, or is frail and aged".

In 2010, the ACT Government agreed to recommendations from the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body to provide recognition and support to grandparents providing informal care to children and young people, acknowledging that these carers often have difficulty in accessing the supports that they need.

In agreeing to recognise the role of all Carer relationships in the development of an *ACT Carers Charter*, a broader definition than that provided by the Commonwealth is needed to ensure all Carers are included and to provide consistency with amendments made to the *Discrimination Act 1991*, the *Guardianship and Management of Property Act 1991*, and the *Human Rights*

Commission Act 2005, under the ACT Carer Recognition Legislation Amendment Act 2006.

In the ACT, the term 'Carer' encompasses a diversity of individuals and groups performing a caring role. The proposed Charter defines a Carer as "a person who provides unpaid primary care to someone else who is dependent on the person for ongoing care and assistance".

This definition is consistent with the *ACT Carers Recognition Legislation Amendment Act 2006* and includes people who provide informal care and support to friends and relatives with needs associated with disability, ageing, ongoing physical or mental illness, or substance abuse, as well as Grandparents, Kinship Carers or Foster Carers who provide a caring role to children and young people.

The ACT Government's existing *Caring for Carers Policy* focuses on seven key principles:

1. Carers have the right to decide whether to take on or continue the role of carer and are supported in their choices;
2. The health and wellbeing of Carers is supported through services and programs;
3. Resources are available to provide timely and adequate assistance to Carers;
4. Affordable services of a high standard are available to people who need care, complementing the role of the Carer;
5. The critical contribution of Carers is recognised, valued and promoted in the community;
6. The Carer and the person receiving care are regarded as a partnership, in which each person has rights and responsibilities; and
7. Organisations welcome and support Carer participation at all levels of decision-making, with respect for the rights and choices of people receiving care.

The ACT Government *Caring for Carers Policy* recognises that the caring relationship is often defined by interdependence, reciprocity, dignity and mutual respect. For example, it is noted that Young Carers require parental guidance and support no less than their peers and that Carers may have a disability and may require assistance themselves.

Carers' needs are diverse and may involve balancing work and/or education with caring responsibilities, personal health conditions, mental health issues associated with the caring role and difficulties in balancing additional social relationships with the caring role.

In 2008, the *Caring for Carers Review and Future Models* report by Allen Consulting confirmed the relevance of the *Caring for Carers Policy* in supporting Carers in the ACT.

In September 2010, the ACT Office for Children, Youth and Family Support released the *Foster Carers and Kinship Carers Guide*. The guide provides a

framework for supporting the important role of Carers providing support to children and young people in statutory care.

The guide aims to support the relationship between case workers and Carers by providing Carers with information that helps them:

- Always put the best interests of the child or young person first;
- Ensure that the child, young person and carer have an opportunity to contribute to the decision making processes;
- Make sure each person's views and wishes are listened to, respected and considered;
- Clarify roles and responsibilities between Carers and workers; and
- Provide information that helps communication between Carers and workers occur, so that each is kept informed about issues relevant to the child or young person in care.

The *Foster Carers and Kinship Carers Guide* also provides a valuable resource to assist those Carers to meet the requirements of the *Children and Young People Act 2008* under which those caring relationships are legislated.

Both the Caring for Carers Policy and the Foster Carers and Kinship Carers Guide seek to support Carers in their role. While some caring relationships may fall outside of the *Caring for Carers Policy* or the *Foster Carer and Kinship Carers Guide*, the proposed *ACT Carers Charter* would apply equally to all caring relationships that fit the definition provided.

In addition, the Charter would be accessible to Carers and prevent the need to navigate existing legislation in order to determine how Carers should expect to be treated by ACT Government and Government funded organisations that provide support services to Carers in the ACT.

Discussion Questions:

- **Would an inclusive Charter appropriately represent the rights and needs of all Carers in the ACT?**
- **Are other mechanisms necessary to support caring relationships that may not be identified by the Caring for Carers Policy or Foster Carers and Kinship Carers Guide?**

WHO ARE CARERS IN THE ACT?

Key Points

- The proposed Charter defines a Carer as “a person who provides unpaid primary care to someone else who is dependent on the person for ongoing care and assistance”.
- Carers come from diverse circumstances and include people caring for friends and relatives with needs associated with disability, ageing, ongoing physical or mental illness or substance use, Kinship Carers including grandparents providing informal care for dependent family members, and Foster Carers.

The proposed Charter defines a Carer as “a person who provides unpaid primary care to someone else who is dependent on the person for ongoing care and assistance”.

Carers in the ACT come from all ages including young Carers (aged under 18 years) and young adult Carers (aged 18-25 years). It is recognised that young Carers and young adult Carers require support in order to access the same life opportunities as their peers. The ACT Young People’s Plan 2009-2014 recognises that all young people need access to information about what they should expect from ACT Government and community services in the ACT, including young people providing care to family members or friends.

It is also recognised that older people often provide primary care to family members, particularly in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. These Carers may be grandparents, uncles, aunts or other significant persons in the life of a child. These Carers require supports that promote Carer health and wellbeing so that they in turn, are able to meet the needs of the person in their care.

Under the National Disability Agreement, the ACT has committed to making older Carers a priority through targeted services that support more vulnerable people, based on relative need (including older Carers and Indigenous people with disability). The Charter should acknowledge the differing needs of older Carers to be consistent with the ACT’s commitments under the National Disability Agreement.

Carers come from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, including refugees, asylum seekers and humanitarian entrants. It is important that information regarding what Carers can expect is accessible to all Carers in the ACT. This includes the provision of information in multiple languages and consideration of cultural differences in the delivery of support services in the ACT.

In addition Foster Carers and Kinship Carers provide care and support for children and young people in care. Foster Carers and Kinship Carers

volunteer their time to support the needs of children and young people and require support to continue providing this care.

Many people performing a caring role may not identify as carers, such as those providing care due to the incarceration of the primary carer, or where a person is required to care for family members due to mental illness or substance dependence. The ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy 2010-2014 highlights the need to recognise and support people providing care and support as a result of alcohol or drug dependence. In particular, the strategy recognises the need to support grandparents caring for children and young people due to parental use of alcohol and other drugs.

It is also acknowledged that the caring relationship may be reciprocal, for example, ageing couples may provide care to each other. Identifying those people providing care who do not identify themselves as Carers may assist in recognising the valuable supports that can be accessed if required.

While it is acknowledged that different Carer groups have different needs, all Carers should be treated with dignity and respect. Regardless of the individual circumstances, all Carers provide vital support to the person or persons receiving their care. The diversity of Carers in the ACT highlights the need to ensure all Carers are recognised and supported to fulfil their caring role.

Discussion Questions:

- **Does the definition of “Carers” adequately reflect all carers in the ACT?**
- **Is an inclusive definition of “Carers” appropriate given the diverse nature of the caring role?**

CHARTERS AND LEGISLATION

Key Points

- The Australian Government has introduced the *Carer Recognition Bill 2010* to provide national recognition for carers and a national *Statement for Australia's Carers* to ensure all Commonwealth public service agencies are aware of their obligations.
- Most States and Territories have introduced a Carer Charter and/or Carer legislation to recognise and support Carers who provide unpaid care and support to a person with needs associated with disability, ongoing physical or mental illness or ageing.
- Amendments made under the ACT *Carers Recognition Legislation Amendment Act 2006* provided recognition for all carers in the ACT to:
 - prevent discrimination,
 - enable Carers to better protect the financial and other resources of the person in their care, and
 - provide Carers with the right to make complaints about relevant services on behalf of themselves or the person in their care to the Human Rights Commission.
- Recognition under this Act applies to people providing unpaid care and support to a person who is dependent on their care.

The following jurisdictions have enacted, or are in the process of enacting a Carers Charter or legislation to support Carers who provide unpaid care and support to a person with needs associated with disability, ongoing physical or mental illness or ageing:

Commonwealth

The Commonwealth Government's *Carer Recognition Bill 2010* was introduced to Parliament in March 2010. The Bill sought to "increase recognition and awareness of carers and to acknowledge the valuable contribution they make to society".

The legislation included a *Statement for Australia's Carers* that all Commonwealth public service agencies must be aware of when considering policies or programs relevant to Carers.

The *Statement for Australia's Carers* does not apply to the exclusion of Carers Charters determined by States or Territories.

Section 10.1 of the Bill noted that "the Act does not create rights or duties that are legally enforceable in judicial or other proceedings". Rather, the Act endorses a set of principles to inform all public service agencies for the betterment of Carers and the people receiving their care.

Further information can be found at:

http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/about/news/2010/Pages/carer_recognition_bill2010.aspx

New South Wales

The New South Wales *Carers (Recognition) Act 2010* was passed in May 2010. The *NSW Carers Charter* as part of the Act recognises the contribution of Carers in NSW, and requires all NSW Government agencies to reflect the charter in the delivery of services to Carers.

The NSW Carers Charter has a strong focus on supporting the individual needs of Carers, including those from culturally diverse backgrounds, remote and rurally based Carers and Young Carers in NSW. In addition, the Act allows for the establishment of a Ministerial Advisory Council for Carers, which is currently being established.

Further information can be found at:

<http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/fullhtml/inforce/act+20+2010+cd+0+N>

South Australia

The South Australian *Carers Recognition Act 2005* provides formal recognition of Carers and services that help them in their role. The Act imposes on South Australian Government agencies and government funded organisations, the obligation to demonstrate an awareness of the South Australian *Carers Charter* and to reflect the principles of the Charter in services provided to Carers and people receiving care.

The South Australian (SA) *Carers Charter* provides for the recognition of Carers as performing “a critical role in maintaining the fabric of society”. The SA Carers Charter places particular emphasis on Carers as partners with service providers working with people receiving care. The SA *Carers Charter* also focuses on protecting the individual needs of Carers, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander Carers, Children and Young Carers and Carers from remote or rural communities.

Further information can be found at:

http://www.carers-sa.asn.au/pdf_files/CarersRecognitionAct.pdf

Western Australia

The Western Australian *Carers Recognition Act 2004* provides for the recognition of Carers and amends the *Disability Services Act 1993* and the *Health Services (Conciliation and Review) Act 1995* for related purposes.

The Act allows Carers to be involved in the provision of services that affect them and their role. The Western Australian (WA) *Carers Charter* emphasises the Carers views and needs should be considered in decisions that may affect them as Carers. The *WA Carers Charter* also provides due attention to any

complaints made by Carers in regard to services that affect their role as Carers.

Further information can be found at:

<http://www.communities.wa.gov.au/serviceareas/carers/Pages/CarersRecognitionAct.aspx>

Queensland

The Queensland *Carers (Recognition) Act 2008* requires government departments and statutory bodies to take action and report annually on how they are providing services to Carers and the people for whom they care.

The Act establishes the Queensland *Carers Charter* to recognise the role and rights of Carers in Queensland. The *Carers Charter* stresses the importance of the carer relationship and Carer's views in policy making decisions.

The *Carers Charter* also stresses the need to reduce Carer responsibilities for Children and Young Carers, with additional supports required to support this particular cohort of Carers in the community.

Further information can be found at:

<http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/ACTS/2008/08AC070.pdf>

Northern Territory

The Northern Territory's *Carers Recognition Act 2006* requires Government and Government funded organisations to abide by the Northern Territory *Carers Charter*. The Act seeks to recognise the role of Carers in the community and to provide reporting by organisations against actions taken to reflect the principles of the *Carers Charter* in providing relevant services.

The Northern Territory (NT) *Carers Charter* emphasises the needs of Carers, particularly Aboriginal Carers and children and young people who are Carers. The NT *Carers Charter* endorses the provision of information to Carers on what they can expect when dealing with agencies.

In addition, complaints made by Carers about services that affect their role as Carers should be properly considered under the NT *Carers Charter*.

Further information can be found at:

<http://www.hstac.com.au/getset/libraryfiles/NTCarersRecogAct.pdf>

Why not introduce Carer specific legislation in the ACT?

The ACT has already pursued both policy and legislative initiatives in relation to Carer recognition. In 2004, Minter Ellison Consulting was engaged to report on legislation to support Carers in the ACT. The *Report on Review of Carers Legislation in the ACT* found that there was no broad based support - nor a demonstrated need - for a stand-alone legislation and recommended

amendments to amend existing laws to better support Carers, and a range of non-legislative actions to facilitate greater use by Carers of relevant legislative rights.

This resulted in the *Carers Recognition Legislation Amendment Act 2006* which recognised all Carers under amendments to the *Discrimination Act 1991*, the *Guardianship and Management of Property Act 1991* and the *Human Rights Commission Act 2005*.

Further information can be found at:

http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/bldb_25793/20060817-29022/pdf/db_25793.doc

Discrimination Act 1991

The *Discrimination Act 1991* seeks to eliminate, so far as possible, discrimination against people on the basis of their status. This includes parents or Carers (amongst others).

This Act was amended in 2006 to increase the recognition of Carers, on an equal basis with "near relatives", under section 26 of the Act. The result of the amendment is to provide appropriate recognition to the close relationship between a Carer and a dependent person, which is much like a family relationship.

Further information can be found at:

<http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/a/1991-81/current/pdf/1991-81.pdf>

The Guardianship and Management of Property Act 1991

The *Guardianship and Management of Property Act 1991* provides a legal mechanism for the guardianship, and management of property. In 2006 the Act was amended to recognise the possibility that there may be multiple Carers who must be consulted as part of the decision-making process when appointing a guardian or manager under the Act.

Further information can be found at:

<http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/a/1991-62/current/pdf/1991-62.pdf>

The Human Rights Commission Act 2005

Carers are recognised in the *Human Rights Commission Act 2005*. Importantly, the *Carers Recognition Legislation Amendment Act 2006* amended the *Human Rights Commission Act 2005* to remove any doubt that an authorised Carer may make a complaint as an agent of the person for whom they care.

The Human Rights Commission has powers under the Human Rights Commission Act 2005 to take complaints about:

- Health services, including services for Carers of people with a physical or mental condition;
- Services for children and young people and their Carers;
- Services for people with disability and their Carers; and
- Services for older people and their Carers.

A Carer may make a complaint to the Commission about a service provided to them as a Carer, or on behalf of a person in their care about a service provided to that person.

Further information can be found at:

<http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/a/2005-40/current/pdf/2005-40.pdf>

The proposed Charter would act as a policy statement to support the legislative and non-legislative rights of Carers in the ACT that is accessible and easy to understand.

Discussion Question:

- **Is there adequate awareness of legislative rights for Carers in the ACT?**

WHAT IS A CHARTER?

Key Points

- A Charter provides a policy statement that identifies the way a group of people should be treated when dealing with government agencies and government funded organisations.
- By asking service users if they are Carers or receive care, ACT Government agencies and community organisations can ensure that the individual needs of Carers are taken into account in relevant decisions that may affect them.
- In addition, ACT Government agencies and community organisations can ensure that Carers are provided with information to support them in their role.

A Charter provides a policy framework to guide the way government and community services are accessed and delivered. It may provide a basis for the development of quality improvement processes to better support Carers. A Charter raises awareness of the situation of members of our community who may experience disadvantage. A Charter also has an educational function, raising community awareness of Carers in order to reduce any systemic barriers they face.

Why introduce a Carers Charter in the ACT?

Formal recognition of Carers has been provided under the various policies and legislation discussed in this paper. The Charter however, will assist in improving the experience of Carers by recognising that while Carers needs are diverse, all Carers should expect to be treated with dignity and respect.

The Charter would allow Carers to access information about what they should expect from ACT Government Agencies and community organisations that provide support to Carers in the ACT.

An *ACT Carers Charter* will:

- Recognise the valuable role Carers perform and the significant contribution they make to the broader community;
- Provide accessible and easy to understand information on how Carers should expected to be treated; and
- Provide a broad framework for ACT Government Agencies and community organisations that provide Carers support programs to ensure Carers are included in the development and review of relevant programs or policies that impact on them.

How would the Charter be upheld?

Awareness of the *ACT Carers Charter* will be included in Service funding Agreements for ACT Government funded organisations that provide support services to Carers in the ACT. In addition, the Charter will provide a policy

statement to ensure relevant ACT Government Agencies are aware of their obligations when developing policies or programs that may impact upon Carers and their caring role.

While the Charter would provide a framework to guide the interaction between Carers and Carer support services, it is important to recognise that at times the views and needs of Carers must be balanced with the views and needs of people receiving care and vice versa.

To mitigate any potential conflict between the rights of different parties, the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services *Human Rights Policy 2010*, states:

“there may be circumstances which cause it or its community partners to limit particular human rights. Such limitations must be reasonable, consistent with a democratic society and proportionate to their intended outcomes”.

Mitigating conflict between the views and needs of Carers and the person receiving their care would require the consideration of the factors noted above in order to ensure the best possible outcome for both the Carer and the person receiving their care.

The introduction of a Charter will facilitate other changes in the ACT to provide recognition and support for Carers, including:

- reflecting the values of the Charter in client service standards, Service organisational values and codes of conduct for relevant ACT Government Agencies and service providers funded to support Carers in the ACT;
- provision of training and service development for ACT Government employees to promote the understanding and awareness of the role Carers perform in our community; and
- ensuring complaints are addressed appropriately and in a timely manner.

Discussion Questions:

- **What steps are needed for organisations to implement the Charter?**

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

Key Points

- The proposed *ACT Carers Charter* is at [Appendix A](#).
- The proposed Charter would require ACT Government agencies and community organisations to engage carers in the development of relevant programs and policies that impact upon them in their caring role.
- ACT Government agencies and ACT Government funded organisations that provide services to Carers or people receiving care will be required to provide information to Carers on how they should expect to be treated and on the support services available.
- In addition to existing services that support the diverse range of Carers in the ACT, the establishment of a *Carers Advocacy Service* will complement the Charter by providing a 'front door' to existing services, to improve access to information, education and support.

To assist in the delivery of the *ACT Carers Charter*, all ACT Government agencies will be required to engage Carers where relevant in the development of policies or programs that affect them in their caring role. This may involve the development of policies or programs that support Carers specifically, or policies and programs that support people who receive care.

ACT Government agencies and ACT Government funded organisations that provide services to Carers or people who receive care will be required to provide advice to Carers on how they should expect to be treated and on the support services available.

Successful implementation of the Charter, will require all relevant agencies to be aware of their obligations under the Charter. To facilitate cooperative involvement, representatives from relevant ACT Government agencies such as the Alcohol and Drug Program (ACT Health), Disability ACT (DHCS) and the Office for Children, Youth and Family Support (DHCS), would be encouraged to participate in community forums to discuss the issues raised in this paper.

In addition to existing organisations and programs that support different groups of Carers in the ACT, the ACT Government has budgeted \$424,000 over four years for the establishment of a *Carers Advocacy Service*, to support Carers in accessing services and programs in the ACT. The *Carers Advocacy Service* will provide a 'front door' to existing services, to improve access to information, education and support.

Information should also be available to help people providing care and support to identify themselves as Carers. This is important because many people that meet the definition of Carer do not identify themselves as Carers and so do not access the supports that are available. This information should

be made available through relevant ACT Government Agencies and community organisations that provide Carer support services, as well as other relevant community groups that may have contact with Carers, such as community centres, advisory services and cultural groups.

As part of the consultation process, all sectors of the caring community, including Carers, people receiving care and community organisations providing Carer support services, will have the opportunity to comment on the proposed Charter and issues arising from this discussion paper.

The consultations will involve Young Carers, Older Carers, Carers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body, Kinship Carers and Foster Carers.

The Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services will work in conjunction with the consultant engaged to manage the consultation strategy to ensure all relevant stakeholders are considered and engaged in this process.

The proposed *ACT Carers Charter* is at [Appendix A](#).

Discussion Questions:

- **Are any other measures necessary to ensure the successful implementation of the *ACT Carers Charter*?**

Appendix A: Proposed *ACT Carers Charter*

The *ACT Carers Charter* (the Charter) recognises the valuable role of people in the ACT community who provide unpaid primary care to someone else who is dependent on the person for ongoing care and assistance. The Charter provides a policy framework to guide the way ACT Government and government funded services that support Carers are accessed and delivered.

Carers come from diverse circumstances and include people caring for friends and relatives with needs associated with disability, ageing, ongoing physical or mental illness or substance use, Kinship Carers including Grandparents providing informal care for family members, and Foster Carers.

Relevant ACT Government Agencies and ACT Government funded organisations are responsible for ensuring the *ACT Carers Charter* is upheld where practicable and within the reasonable limits required to mitigate conflicts with the views and needs of people receiving care.

1. Carers are treated with respect and dignity, and not be discriminated against.
2. Carers have access to information regarding how they should expect to be treated and the support services available.
3. Carers have their views and needs taken into account when relevant decisions are made that affect them in their caring role.
4. Carers have access to support and services that take into account their own cultural, linguistic and religious preferences.
5. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Carers have access to supports that recognise their individual needs.
6. Young Carers (under 18 years) and Young Adult Carers (18-25years) have access to supports that ensure equal life opportunities as their peers.
7. Older Carers have access to supports that recognise their individual needs.
8. The impacts of social exclusion on children and their Carers are recognised and responded to where practicable.
9. Carers are engaged in the assessment, planning, delivery and review of relevant services that affect them in their caring role.
10. Carers have their complaints in relation to services that affect them in their caring role responded to appropriately and in a timely manner.

Appendix B: Resources

Allen Consulting (2008) *Caring for Carers Review and Future Models*, analysis the relevance of the existing policy framework supporting Carers in the ACT.

ACT Government *Caring for Carers Policy* (2003) provides a framework for supporting the role of people Caring for friends or relatives with needs associated with disability, ageing, physical or mental illness, or substance use.

ACT Government *Foster Carers and Kinship Carers Guide* (2010) provides a framework to support the role of Foster Carers and Kinship Carers in the ACT.

Carers NSW & the Carers Coalition. *Reaching 'Hidden Carers'*, aims to identify hidden carers and the measures necessary to engage them in support services.

Noble-Carr, D. Moore, T. And Macarthur, M. *Who Cares? Experiences of young people living with a family member who has an alcohol or other drug issue*, Institute of Child Protection Studies, Australia. This report explores the question "What are the specific needs of children who have a parent with an alcohol or other drug issue and how are these similar or different to other children with care responsibilities?".

Youth Coalition of the ACT and the Children of Parents with a Mental Illness Project, *The Coloured Kit*, aims to support and empower young people and families affected by mental illness/dual diagnosis. It assists young people and their families to think about, and plan for, what they want to happen if parents are suddenly unable to care for their children.

CyclopsACT, *Ask the Question*, aims to raise awareness about the needs and circumstances of young people living with a family member affected by alcohol and/or other drug issues.

Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth, *Who Cares ...? Report on the inquiry into better support for carers*, House of Representatives, April 2009, Canberra.

Report on Review of Carers Legislation in the ACT, ACT Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services, Minter Ellison Consulting, November 2004, Canberra.

Legislation

Human Rights Commission Act 2005 (ACT)

Guardianship and Management of Property Act 1991 (ACT)

Discrimination Act 1991 (ACT)

Children and Young People Act 2008 (ACT)

Carers Recognition Act 2005 (SA)

Carers (Recognition) Act 2008 (QLD)

Carer's Recognition Act 2006 (NT)

Carers Recognition Act 2004 (WA)

Carers (Recognition) ACT 2010 (NSW)

Carer Recognition Bill 2010 (Commonwealth)

Charters

Northern Territory Carers Charter

Queensland Carers Charter

Western Australia Carers Charter

South Australia Carers Charter

New South Wales Carers Charter

Statement for Australia's Carers (Commonwealth)