

Increased Supports and Recognition for WA Carers

ASK: \$890,000 annual recurring funding to increase Carers WA support for young carers and regional carers.

The Problem



Being a carer impacts on their ability to work, study or participate in social activities. This impact is particularly heightened for carers in regional areas and young carers (carers under the age of 25).



Insufficient support and recognition for young carers can negatively affect their lifetime earnings, superannuation, and overall wellbeing, costing the government an estimated average of \$592,000 per person in lifetime Carer Payment costs.



Australians in rural and remote areas face increased hospitalisation, death, and injury rates due to limited service access. Carers must compensate for these service gaps, leading to high caring responsibilities.



Carers in regional areas and young carers face increased psychological distress, financial hardship, social isolation, educational and financial disadvantages, unemployment, and poor physical and mental health.

The Solution

Carers WA calls for the State Government to invest in increased support for these particular cohorts of carers, to mitigate the increased impact of their caring roles. This should include:

- Additional funding for Young Carer dedicated staff, including in regional areas (\$340,000).
- Additional funding for place-based regional carer coordinators (\$550,000).



Carers Count
WA 2025 Election

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All carers should:

- ✓ Have access to face-to-face carer support services regardless of where they are in WA.
- ✓ Be identified, recognised and included throughout the systems and services they navigate and use.
- ✓ Have barrier-free access to support, resources and benefits to address and mitigate the challenges they face every day in their caring role.

24%

of WA carers in regional and remote areas are in crisis. These carers live with disproportionately lower protective factors of social support, self-efficacy, recognition and work-life balance.

1 in 6

young people identify as being a young carer. This means that in WA, there are over **148,000** young carers, and up to **5.3** young carers in each WA classroom.

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Voices of WA Carers

'There needs to be more recognition of carers outside of capital cities. Country families don't have access to the same services, respite, care and facilities that city families do. It makes a stressful situation even more difficult. There needs to be more conversation about the financial burden this places on families. Many carers are forced to leave the workforce to care.' – a response from a carer.

Note: Quote not attributed to the carer pictured.

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What is Working Elsewhere

- In response to regional community consultation, Carers WA has already acted to more than double its regional carer coordinator positions in the last 12-18 months. Carers in the Wheatbelt, Esperance, Great Southern, and South West regions now benefit from five local regional carer coordinators; however this needs to be increased further.
- Carers WA delivers a range of holistic supports for young carers, which are primarily metropolitan-based, to improve their access to support services; foster community and peer support; enhance service delivery and outreach; and promote educational and career opportunities.

Alignment to Legislative and Policy Frameworks

- Carers Recognition Act 2004 (WA) – The WA Carers Charter states that carers must be recognised, treated with respect and dignity, and that the views and needs of carers must be taken into account.
- Review of the Carers Recognition Act 2004: Report to Parliament – Supports Findings 2 & 3 of the Review, in which it is stated that further action is required to achieve greater and wider community awareness, recognition and understanding of carers.
- WA Carers Strategy – Recognises the significant impact of the caring role on carers, and the need to support carers to balance their caring responsibilities, personal wellbeing and life outside of caring.