



Increased Supports and Recognition for Regional Carer and Young Carers

The What

Carers WA is seeking WA Government investment in two specific cohort groups of carers, this being WA regional carers, and WA young carers. This investment will be used to increase staff resources and program capacity in the regions and for young carers.

The Why

- 24% of WA carers in regional and remote areas are in crisis. 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.
- Young carers have been identified as one of the four most at risk groups in Australia.
- 1 in 6 young people identify as having caring responsibilities. This means in WA, there are over 148,000 young carers and up to 5.3 young carers in every classroom. This is a big increase and approximately 3.7 times higher than previously estimated numbers of young carers.
- Being a carer impacts on their ability to work, study or participate in social activities. This impact is particularly high for carers in regional areas and young carers. Insufficient support and recognition for carers has a negative impact on their lifetime earnings, superannuation and overall wellbeing. This costs the government an average of \$592,000 per person in lifetime Carer Payment costs, as well as higher aged care pension costs in the long term.
- While Carers WA has doubled its number of place-based regional carer coordinators, who continue to deliver substantial benefits for the communities they serve, more regional support is required.

Outcomes and Benefits:

For carers:

- Carers have access to face-to-face carer support services, regardless of where they are in WA.
- Regional carers are better supported and have access to localised supports.
- Carers have longevity in their caring role.
- For young carers, it reduces the impact of their caring role and increases their financial security and future work and study prospects.
- Carers are less stressed and have improved wellbeing.

For Government:

- Carers in regional areas have longevity in their caring role, benefiting the WA health system and enabling people to retain their independence for longer at home, decreasing the costs of healthcare.
- Young carers have reduced impact of the caring role on their economic prospects and social activities, resulting in increased prospects for work, study and financial security.

The Who

Who are these increased supports and recognition for?

Carers WA is seeking WA Government investment for increased supports and recognition for two specific population groups of carers, which will include:

- A carer of a person with disability, chronic illness, mental illness, alcohol or other drug dependency, or who is frail.
 - Who is living in a regional or remote area of Western Australia; or
 - Who is a young carer (carer aged under 25 years old).

The How

With these increased levels of funding, Carers WA would be able to:

- Increase the number of place-based carer regional coordinators. These positions would be based in areas with the highest demonstrated need, from feedback received by community consultation: Midwest, Kimberley, Great Southern, Goldfields.
- Extend the reach of Carers WA's Young Carer Team to regional areas of WA, and increase the capacity of the team in metropolitan Perth.

Timeframe

The suggested timeframe for the increased investment in WA regional and young carers is from the 1st of July 2025.