



Government
of South Australia

SA Carers Charter

Principles

1. Carers have choices within their caring role.
2. Carers' health and well-being are critical to the community.
3. Carers play a critical role in maintaining the fabric of society.
4. Service providers work in partnership with carers.
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.
7. Resources are available to provide timely, appropriate and adequate assistance to carers.

Valuing our Carers

On behalf of the Rann Government, I express our gratitude to the thousands of people throughout South Australia who care for others on a daily basis.

At any time any one of us may be called upon to care for a family member, friend or neighbour. If you care for someone who is frail, has a disability or chronic illness you will experience immense rewards but you are likely to experience some challenges too:

- Your future plans may have to be put on hold.
- It may be hard to maintain other relationships and activities.
- There may be risks to your own health and well-being.
- You may have to compromise your employment and income.
- You may feel isolated.
- You may lack the support of the wider community and service providers.

Recognising and supporting carers

We must recognise and support the vital role carers play by acknowledging their needs and rights – not simply in relation to the person they care for – but as individuals in their own right.

The State Government has worked in partnership with carer groups and representatives to develop a Carers Policy and a Carers Charter for South Australia to give direction to government departments in providing services where carers are involved.



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How will this affect the way agencies deal with carers?

Many South Australian Government and non-government agencies already support carers and are well aware of the impact their work has on them. However the *South Australia Carers Recognition Act 2005* was passed by Parliament in October 2005 and:

- provides formal acknowledgement that carers have rights
- enshrines the *SA Carers Charter* in legislation.

Government and non-government agencies are expected to adhere and respond to the standards and principles in the Charter and to consult carers on:

- decisions that have an impact on them as individuals
- matters which affect them as carers when services or plans are developed.

The *Carers Recognition Act 2005* and the Carers Charter are our first steps in recognising carers in their own right and for their valuable role in caring for others.



Jay Weatherill

Minister for Families and Communities
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www.familiesandcommunities.sa.gov.au/sacarers/