



Mr Paul Coates
Chief Executive Officer
Carers WA
Email: policy@carerswa.asn.au

Dear Mr Coates

Thank you for your letter of 18 January 2021 in relation to Carers WA's priorities for the 2021 State Election.

I appreciate the critical role carers play in our community and this role will only grow as the WA population grows and ages.

The McGowan Government undertook to review the *Carers Recognition Act 2004* and commenced that review in 2018. This proved to be a considerable task, but the review has now been completed and a report was very recently provided to the Minister for Communities. The report and recommendations will be considered by a re-elected McGowan Labor Government.

As you will be aware, the need for carer support, especially respite, is challenged by the wide variety of people being cared for and the sources of funding required, which can be a State or Commonwealth responsibility, or a mix of both. The Commonwealth Carers Gateway <https://www.carergateway.gov.au/> is aimed at providing a central reference point for the many different types of carers and the many different conditions of those being cared for. I was pleased to see recognition of this by the Carers WA website providing a link to Carers Gateway.

This mix of State and Federal funding, the different types of conditions of those being cared for and the location of carers, all add to the complexities of your proposal, to build and fund generic respite facilities around the State. Disability service providers providing respite for people with disability, aged care providers providing respite for seniors and so on, seems to be preferable rather than a "one-size-fits-all" approach.

There was acknowledgement in the McGowan Government's Sustainable Health Review that more can be done to support carers and the process is underway through the work of the Sustainable Health Review Oversight Committee to embed engagement and support for carers into our health system.

Further information and a link to the Sustainable Health review report can be found at

<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/announcements/independent-oversight-committee-appointed-guide-transformation-of-health-system> .

Thank you for raising your concerns with me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark McGowan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark McGowan MLA
PREMIER; WA LABOR LEADER

16 FEB 2021