

2022 National Carer Survey

Western Australia Results



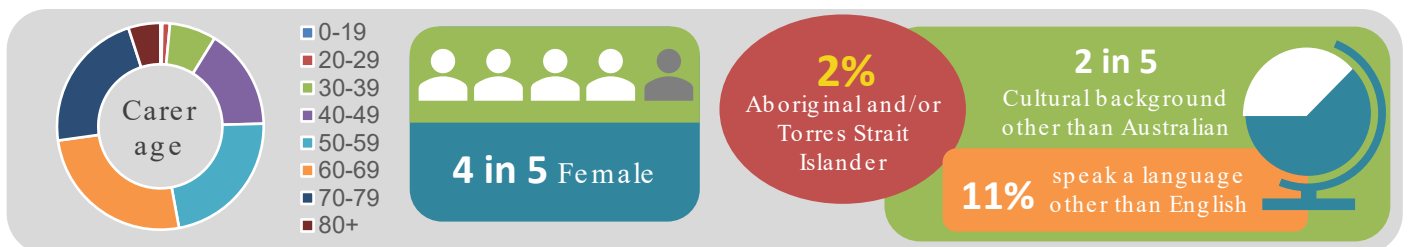
Highlights from Western Australia

This year's National Carer Survey heard from a total of 368 carers from Western Australia (WA). The Survey results tell us a lot about carers' day to day experiences, support needs and perspectives on caring. Below are some of the key findings so far.

Carers from WA represented a total of 5.4% of respondents to the 2022 National Carer Survey. They mainly responded to the Survey online and 71.2% were connected with Carers WA.

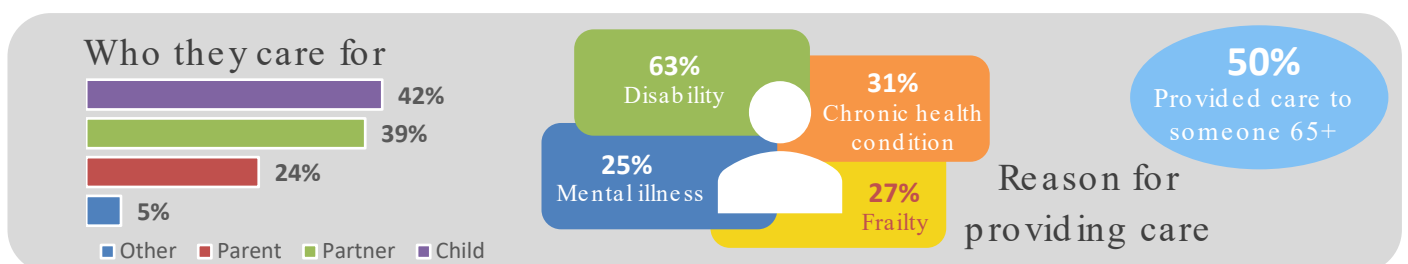
About the carers who responded

Of the 368 carers who responded to the 2022 National Carer Survey from WA, the majority identified as female and their average age was 59.6 years. They represented a range of locations and cultural backgrounds, but most identified as Australian and lived in metropolitan locations. 36.1% of respondents were working while providing care.



About the people they care for

Western Australian carers who responded to the Survey were most commonly caring for a child (including adult children), and a majority were providing care to someone living with disability, however many people reported the person they cared for experienced two or more conditions. On average, the people they cared for were 53 years of age. Not everyone who responded to the Survey was still in a caring role; 19 respondents (5.2%) identified as former carers, and a further 102 (29.2%) had previously cared for someone, and were now caring for someone else.



About the caring experience

Most carers who responded from WA cared for one person, and they were most commonly the sole carer. They were also most likely to live with the person they care for. Carers from WA typically spent 109.3 hours per week caring, and had been caring for an average of 11.2 years.



Carers' experiences with services

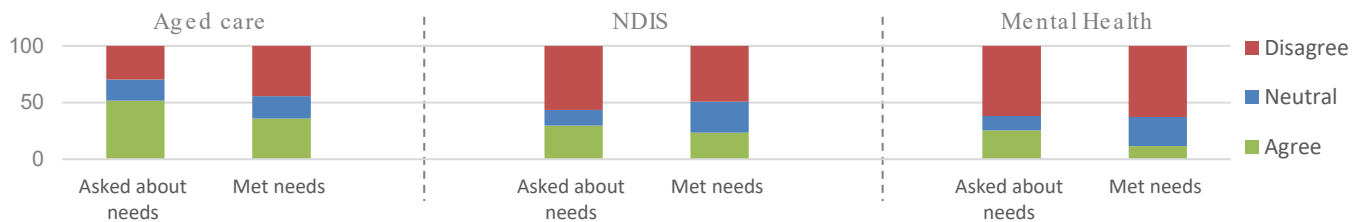
The 2022 National Carer Survey asked carers about their use of a range of services, and how included and supported they felt. Carers from WA were most commonly accessing aged care services with or on behalf of the person they care for. Aged care services were more likely to ask carers about their own needs than disability or mental health services, however, services didn't always meet carers own needs or enable them to work or take breaks.

The 'typical' respondent from WA was a woman in her 60s, caring for a child (including adult children) living with disability, who was not in employment.



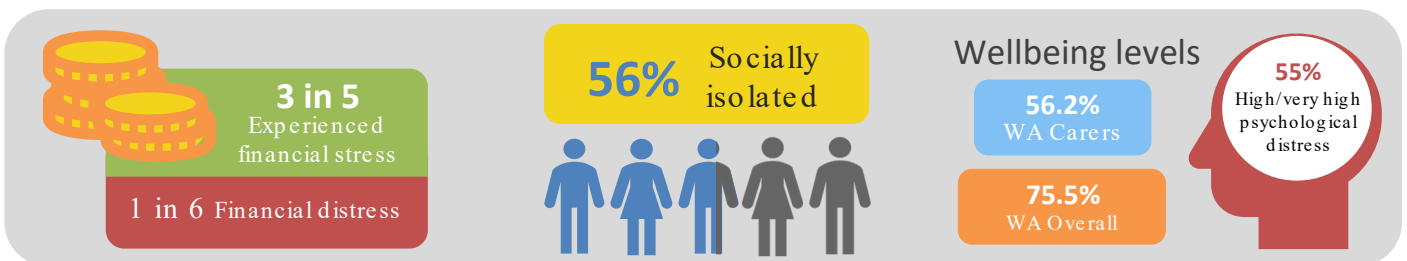
Many carers also reported that their services were reduced or interrupted due to COVID-19, that it was difficult to find information about services and supports, it took too much time and energy to organise services, there were long wait times for assessments or services and services were not available at the level required.

Carers experiences of services



Key challenges experienced by carers

In addition to the many challenges carers experienced when accessing services, many carers in WA told us they were financially stressed and socially isolated. Compared to other Australians, carers in WA were much more likely to be at risk of mental illness and had much lower wellbeing.



Carers in WA provide invaluable support to the people they care for and the community. And yet, recognition and timely support is lacking.

This National Carers Week, Carers WA calls on the WA and Australian governments, service providers and communities to better support Australia's carers.

The National Carer Survey is an initiative of Carers NSW in partnership with Carers WA and the other State and Territory Carer Organisations. The Survey is proudly funded by the NSW Department of Communities and Justice. More detailed results will be released in the coming months. For more information, visit <https://www.carersnsw.org.au/about-us/our-research/carer-survey> or contact research@carersnsw.org.au or (02) 9280 4744.