



## CEO Message

Although we continue to deliver services across the state and take hundreds of calls from carers each week, we have also had a significant focus on advocating for carers over the past few months. Before, during and following the general election we have been contacting politicians across the state to create awareness of carers, the contribution they make to the community and the ongoing need to recognise and give carers support.

We have drawn their attention to current research, including the recently published report *'Caring Costs Us: The economic impact on lifetime income and retirement savings of informal carers'*.

The report identifies that family members who provide unpaid care may lose out on \$392,500 in lifetime earnings and miss out on a further \$175,000 in superannuation through not having the opportunity to take up paid employment. We continue to push for positive outcomes from the recent review of the state Carers Recognition Act and seek further financial support from the Government putting forward ideas such as a concession card for carers for which we await a response.

Looking ahead we have a very busy and exciting period. National Carers Week will be held in October with a range of events to raise awareness and recognise

carers within the wider community. Preceding Carers Week we will be hosting a state Carers Conference on Thursday 13th and Friday 14th October at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. We welcome carers, policy makers and service providers to explore a range of issues under the themes of inclusion, inspiration, and innovation.

Please continue to ensure you look after yourself which often takes second place with the challenges you face in caring and, if you need support, please contact us.

Best wishes,  
**Paul Coates, Carers WA CEO**



# Carers WA Conference 2022

Thursday 13th & Friday 14th October



**inclusion  
innovation  
inspiration**

Caring in the Community

The Carers WA Conference 2022 is WA's premier event leading into, and celebrating, National Carers Week.

The program will explore common trends and challenges related to the changing landscape of caring within

WA, from the perspective of industry professionals and carers.

Bringing together a mixed audience, the Conference is designed for carers, people with care needs, policy makers, service providers, support

organisations and health professionals. Presented over two days, there are online options available for those who cannot attend in-person.

**When:** Thursday 13 & Friday 14 October 2022

**Where:** Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre

**Cost:** Carers, registered with Carers WA, attend FREE. General tickets range between \$250 - \$585.

**Registrations:**  
[www.carerswa.asn.au](http://www.carerswa.asn.au)



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Communities



## National Carers Week 2022



MILLIONS  
OF REASONS  
TO CARE  
30 YEARS



Returning from 16 - 22 October 2022, National Carers Week is a time to recognise and celebrate the 2.65 million Australians who provide care and support to a family member or friend. Carers WA will be hosting a number of events and activities throughout the week to recognise and celebrate our carers in WA. Please visit our website for more information.

## Carers Connect

"I completed the Carers Connect program and it saved me! It gave the purpose and direction I had lost in my caring role. I'm now in the job I've wanted for years, and my identity is Lynn the phlebotomist, who is also a carer. I haven't felt this way in years. Thanks to Carers Connect I've started on this next chapter and couldn't have done it without their support."

**- Lynn, Carers Connect participant.**



## What is Carers Connect?

The Carers Connect program can assist you to use your transferable caring role skills and discover opportunities to gain a qualification and/or paid employment.

### What is included?

- 1:1 career counselling to

assist with identifying skills and potential barriers and create an individualised goal plan

- Ongoing coaching and mentoring to support you on your pathway to employment
- Assistance to select and enrol in accredited training
- Access to a financial

assistance package to help you achieve your career goals.

### Register your interest:

For more information, please contact the Carers Connect Team on **1300 227 377** or [carers.connect@carerswa.asn.au](mailto:carers.connect@carerswa.asn.au)



**CARERSCONNECT**  
To Education & Employment

*This program is delivered by Carers WA in partnership with AMA WA. Supported by the Transition Funding for Successful Try, Test and Learn Fund Project program – an initiative of the Australian Government Department of Social Services.*

# Be the voice for all carers – join the Carer Representation Program!

Only someone who has experienced caring for a family member or friend with health, mental health or alcohol and other drug issues can truly understand the issues and barriers faced by carers.

A Carer Representative voices the carer perspective and takes part in the decision-making process on behalf of the caring community. As a Carer Representative you will:

- Have opportunities to participate in WA Department of Health and Mental Health committees and other forums.
- Be paid for your time and participation at committee meetings and associated travel costs.
- Use your lived experience as a carer to stand up for and represent the voice of carers, and provide a voice in policy

development and service planning.

- Have opportunities to meet and discuss issues with other carers, learn new skills, develop confidence, and make a real difference to the way carers are treated in the health and mental health systems.

Carer Representatives come from all walks of life and backgrounds, including carers who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, LGBTQIA+, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse, and from any age group.



If this sounds like you, please contact the Carer Representation Program team on **1300 227 377** or email **carer.rep@carerswa.asn.au**.

**- Isabelle, Carer Representation Advisor**

## Resources in Other Languages

As Australians we are a unique bunch representing more than 300 ethnicities and 120 faiths contributing to the vibrant nature of our state. At Carers WA we believe that all individuals are equally entitled to access services and supports and that is why we are pleased to announce the launch of the Carers WA factsheet and explainer video translated in nine different languages and available in Arabic, Chinese simplified, Chinese traditional, Dari, Farsi, Hindi, Italian, Punjabi and Vietnamese.

The factsheet aims to increase awareness around carer identification and access to supports available through Carers WA and Carer Gateway within culturally and linguistically diverse communities in WA. The resources are available from **[www.carerswa.asn.au/resources-in-other-languages](http://www.carerswa.asn.au/resources-in-other-languages)**

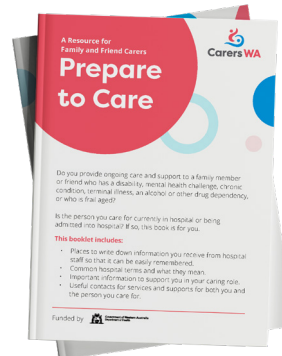


## Carer Representative

"The benefit of being a Carer Rep is that I have gained self-confidence and the realisation that my lived experience is important."

**- Sharyn, Carer Representative**

## Prepare to Care



The Prepare to Care hospital team are now back in public hospitals, providing resources for carers and education for staff. Carers corners will be restocked, so keep your eye out for the newly redesigned 'Prepare to Care booklet'

for carers. Hospital admission can be a critical time, not only for the patient but also for the person who cares for them. The Prepare to Care booklet is a free resource to assist carers to navigate the hospital system when the person they care for has been admitted. A digital copy is also available from our website.



## NAIDOC Week

July saw Carers WA celebrate the launch of its commissioned artwork by local artist Rohin Kickett, as part of NAIDOC Week 2022. It's not every day an organisation has the opportunity to work with an artist like Rohin. He took the time to understand exactly what Carers WA does, reflect on that and depict it in a piece of artwork.



Within the artwork the circle elements are prominent as they represent our many hubs. As an organisation we aim to bring together the community and provide the required supports. This eye-catching piece of artwork incorporates several elements of the Nyoongar region by aerial view in an abstract style, while also exploring alternative ways of mark making. We were very fortunate to have Rohin complete this amazing artwork and are truly proud of how it represents our organisation and the communities we operate in.

The launch event was not only supported by our staff but we also welcomed several Elders, who take time out each month to consult and provide guidance on our Aboriginal Working Group that is at present focusing on the next step in Carers WA's Reconciliation Action Plan.



## Youth Advisory Group

Carers WA has recently signed a proposal with the Youth Advocacy Council WA (YACWA) to begin exploring the development of a Youth Advisory Group (YAG) to help guide and provide input to the Carers WA Young Carer team. More information on this will be available soon.

## Pen Pal Program

This program connects carers living in Australia with like-minded carers in the UK through an 'old school' approach of sending letters. It encourages connection and peer support. To find out more email [ccdteam@carerswa.asn](mailto:ccdteam@carerswa.asn).



1300 227 377



'Carers WA'



[info@carerswa.asn.au](mailto:info@carerswa.asn.au)



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**Carers WA**