

Carer Recognition Legislation consultation announcement welcomed

To coincide with Carers Week 2021, the Tasmanian Government has announced community consultation for Carer Recognition Legislation is now open.

As part of the State Government's *Supporting Tasmanian Carers: Tasmanian Carer Action Plan 2021-2024*, the legislation will provide formal acknowledgement of the 80,100 plus primary carers in Tasmania.

It will also include a set of principles about the significance of care relations and include obligations for organisations that interact with people in care relationships.

Carers Tasmania Chief Executive Officer David Brennan welcomed Minister Rockliff's formal commencement of consultation for the legislation in Parliament this morning.

"Tasmania has the highest ratio of carers in the country at 1:6," he said.

"This legislation will formally recognise the role and contribution of informal carers who contribute more than \$2.23 billion of unpaid care every year to the Tasmanian economy."

Mr Brennan said it was important that the voice of carers' lived experience be heard to inform and underpin the legislation.

He urged carers to attend the consultation sessions in Launceston, Devonport, Burnie and Hobart from 15 to 18 November.

"This brings Tasmania into line with other states who have carer recognition legislation in place, so we want it to be an exemplar nationally," he said.

"Carers Tasmania encourages carers from all corners of our state to get involved through the online survey or attend one of the four planned consultation meetings.

"Carers Tasmania will also be consulting directly with carers and submitting a position to Government on the legislation."

The consultation sessions will be held in Hobart on 15 November, Devonport and Burnie on 17 November, and Launceston on 18 November.

The Carer Recognition Legislation Discussion Paper is available online at https://www.communities.tas.gov.au/csr/policy/Policy_Work/carers_policy_and_action_plan/carers-recognition-legislation-consultation.

Interviews with Carers Tasmania Chief Executive Officer can be arranged.

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