

# Media Release



16 October 2007

Carers Australia is the recognised national voice of Australian carers. Our members are the carers associations in each state and territory. We have no political affiliation. We work with all parties to achieve better outcomes for all carers. We believe that all carers are entitled to the same rights, choices and opportunities as other Australians.

## \$34 billion tax cuts thanks to carers

The President of Carers Australia, Mr Ben Chodziesner has claimed yesterday's tax cuts promised by the government would not have been possible without the contribution of Australia's 2.6 million carers.

"The government likes to talk in multiple year terms when it comes to spending" Mr Chodziesner said. "Over the three years nominated for this current announcement carers would be saving the economy well over \$90 billion dollars. Such an election promise simply wouldn't be possible without the contribution of carers."

In 2005, Access Economics released findings that conservatively estimated the cost of replacing the more than 1.2 billion hours of care provided by unpaid family carers at in excess of \$30.5 billion dollars each year.

"To put that in perspective, if taxpayers had to cover that cost it would add around \$3,000 to everyone's tax bill each year" Mr Chodziesner said.

However, Mr Chodziesner warned not to take the contribution of carers for granted.

"Carers are under incredible strain, as demonstrated in the Australian Unity Wellbeing Index special report released yesterday. The current situation is simply unsustainable." Mr Chodziesner said. "Carers don't want to give up their caring role, but without appropriate support, some are running out of options. At the moment, the balance simply isn't right."

Mr Chodziesner also noted the suggestion by the leaders of both major parties yesterday for an upcoming announcement for carers.

"The scale of this proposed tax cut shows there is plenty of room in the budget for additional support for carers" Mr Chodziesner said. "We will be watching closely for a visionary policy that will address the complexity of the issues and is flexible enough to cater for individual circumstances."

The details of Carers Australia's election platform are available at [www.ifyoudontcare.com.au](http://www.ifyoudontcare.com.au).

The special report *The Wellbeing of Australians: Carer Health and Wellbeing* can be downloaded from [www.carersaustralia.com.au](http://www.carersaustralia.com.au).

14-20 October is Carers Week. Held right across Australia, Carers Week was established to promote and raise awareness of the valuable role that carers play in our community and to generate discussion about carer issues. More info is available at [www.carersweek.com.au](http://www.carersweek.com.au).

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