



## CARERS VICTORIA

## MEDIA RELEASE

12 September 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **“WALK A MILE IN MY SHOES”, FAMILY CARERS ASK POLITICIANS**

Hundreds of family carers of people with disabilities and mental illness, and their supporters, are expected to gather on the steps of Parliament House in Melbourne, on Tuesday 13 September 2005, 10.00 – 12.30pm.

Such spontaneous action by family carers is unprecedented.

Behind it is a huge groundswell of frustration at the perceived inability of governments to provide enough timely and adequate supports to ease the carer workload.

The organisers in Victoria, all family carers, are asking politicians to “Walk A Mile In My Shoes” and to emphasise the point, will bring or send their old shoes to be placed on the front steps of Parliament House.

The organisers have developed a “Carer Log of Claims” which will be distributed on the day.

Carers Victoria, the statewide Carers Association, is this time not in the forefront of lobbying for a better deal for carers, but is standing by to support all carers who wish to speak up for themselves.

A number of family carers will be telling their stories at the gathering, and it is expected that several MP’s will be available to speak to carers in between their Parliamentary and Party commitments.

Carers Martin Forty, father of six, who also cares for his wife who has a mental illness, and Leane Leggo, carer of a child with cerebral palsy, will be available for media interviews.

#### **For further information:**

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*Carers Victoria is the statewide voice for family carers,  
representing and providing support to carers in the community.*