



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

YOUNG CARERS BRING IT TO CANBERRA

Young carers across Australia will join peak bodies, respite centres and government representatives for the *Bring it! Young Carers Forum 2008* to be held at Parliament House, on 26-27 November, 2008.

Professor Saul Becker from the University of Nottingham will deliver the keynote address outlining the latest research from the UK and the development of the Global Young Carers network.

Academics Bettina Cass, Ros Morrow and Tim Moore will be joined on discussion panels by representatives from Commonwealth and state government departments, key youth focused organisations, service providers, health professionals and young carers themselves to discuss four key areas: Identification, Education, Respite, Connections to government services.

Attending the Forum from Clayton South, Victoria is young carer Aaron Paul aged 22 years. Aaron has been caring for his mother since she was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis 11 years ago. As an Ambassador for Carers Australia, he will be taking a major role in the Forum workshops that have been specifically designed to address young carer issues.

The Forum will conclude with 'Where to now?' - key recommendations that have been formulated from the days workshop with response from the Minister.

There are approximately 388,800 young carers under 26 years of age in Australia and 104,700 young carers in Victoria. This represents 6% of the young population. This means that in every classroom, in every school in Australia there's at least one young carer caring for a family member with a disability, mental illness, chronic illness or a frail aged relative.

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.*