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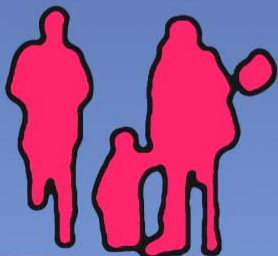


# Social Inclusion: What Carers Need

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President

Carers Australia



# Who are carers?

- A carer is a family member, friend or neighbour who provides assistance without payment
- *They provide assistance to frail older people, younger people with disabilities, people with mental health disorders, people with alcohol and other drug dependency, people with dementia, people with a terminal illness, people living with HIV/AIDS and people with a chronic illness.*
- They are *not* an homogenous group



- Requirements for carers not to become socially isolated are many



# October 2008 the Prime Minister said

- “First, we must provide greater financial support and assist carers to build retirement income. Second, we must assist carers to participate in the paid workforce. And third, we must work harder to help carers themselves stay in good health.”



# Other factors

- Recognition of their role and that caring needs change at different stages of life
- Integrated support for carers and the person they are caring for
- Ability to participate in family, social and community life
- Access to education and training



# Recognition

- Announcement of the development of a National Carer Recognition Framework
- NHHR Commission final report that positions carers clearly on the health agenda
- Inclusion of carers in the development of the National Disability Strategy



# A new approach - NDIS

- Paradigm shift away from a “welfare” model to a person-centred approach in which people have an entitlement to services
- Focus on early intervention and prevention
- Flexible, individualised funding will result in a change to the way services are delivered
- Needs additional funding

