



Australian Government

Australian Institute of  
Health and Welfare

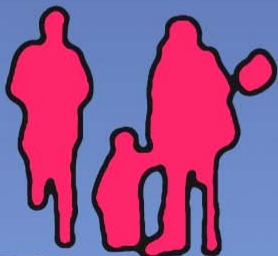
Australia's welfare



# Government Services and Support for Carers

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# Outline

- Government services and support
- Reforms to financial assistance and service support systems
- Policy environment and challenges



# Services and Supports for Carers

- Financial Assistance
  - Carer Payment
  - Carer Allowance
  - Carer Supplement
  - Child Disability Assistance Payment



# Services and Supports for Carers

- 2008-09 expenditure on Carer Payments:
  - Carer Payment \$1.9 billion, 146,780 recipients
  - Carer Allowance \$1.8 billion, 461,086 recipients
- From 1999 to 2008:
  - 226% growth in Carer Payment recipients
  - 320% growth in Carer Allowance recipients



# Reforms to financial assistance

- *Secure and Sustainable Pension Reform* package
  - Permanent annual Carer Supplement
- Eligibility requirements for Carer Payment (child) from 1 July 2009
  - Extra 19,000 carers of children with severe disability to benefit



# Reforms to service delivery

- National Disability Agreement
  - \$5 billion Commonwealth contribution over 5 years to improve and expand services
  - Older carers are a priority area for reform
- Department's Programs
  - to address gaps in service delivery, for example young carers
- Department's Research Plan



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# Response to Carers Inquiry

- Government agreed to progress more than half of the recommendations
- National Carer Recognition Framework
  - Commonwealth carer recognition legislation to be introduced by 2010
  - National Carers' Strategy
  - Complement National Disability Strategy to be released in 2010



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# Policy Challenges

- Future supply and demand of informal and formal care services
  - Gap of 500,000 between people who need care and people available to provide care
  - Highlights the need for increased formal and informal care services and to improve service delivery approaches.



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# Policy Challenges

- Balancing work and care responsibilities
  - 76% of carers are of workforce age
  - Employed carers more likely to be part-time
  - Highlights the need for greater workplace recognition of caring role and for workplaces to have flexible hours, family friendly policies.



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# Conclusion

- Government is committed to improving outcomes for carers.

