**Release date: 11 October 2019**

# Showcasing carer support in NSW Carers NSW Conference 2019

Carers NSWis pleased to be hosting a one-day, state-wide conference showcasing carer support in NSW on **Thursday 17 October 2019** at the **Pullman Sydney Hyde Park**.

Proudly supported by the NSW Government, the **Carers NSW Conference 2019** will bring together professionals, service providers, representatives from all levels of government, corporate and business leaders, and carers, and will provide delegates the opportunity to explore research, innovation and initiatives in policy, programs and practice in carer support.

CEO of Carers NSW, Elena Katrakis, said the conference will shed light on carer support in NSW with a focus on the soon-to-be-implemented Integrated Carer Support Service (ICSS).

“The carer support sector is undergoing the single biggest reform the sector has ever seen, and the **Carers NSW Conference 2019** invites stakeholders across the state to explore the current state of carer support in NSW,” Elena said.

The conference will feature an **Integrated Carer Support Service (ICSS) Panel** featuring the NSW Regional Delivery Partners (RDPs) who will deliver services under the new national carer support system, and a representative from the Carer Reform Branch of the Department of Social Services.

“We look forward to welcoming representatives from all four NSW Regional Delivery Partners (RDPs), and to hear from carers on the **Carer Panel** about their lived experience driving carer policy and practice,” Elena continued.

**The conference welcomes the following keynote speakers:**

**Dr Gabrielle Carey**, writer, teacher, carer and author of ten books who is currently working on a book entitled *A New Kind of Madness*, focusing on the effects of mental illness and substance abuse on the family.

**Robert Fitzgerald**, NSW Ageing and Disability Commissioner, who has played a key role in shaping institutions that have a huge impact on our society.

**Marian Baird AO**, Professor of Gender and Employment Relations, Head of the Work and Organisational Studies and Co-Director of the Women, Work and Leadership Research Group at the University of Sydney Business School.

The **Carers NSW Conference** **2019** is the first of a series of annual conferences, and will focus on the following conference themes:

* Support in the workplace
* Support through research
* Support in the community
* Supporting the diversity of caring

The **Carers NSW Conference 2019** will be hosted in **National Carers Week**, which is set to celebrate carers from **Sunday 13 to Saturday 19 October 2019**. Each year, National Carers Week provides an opportunity to raise awareness and educate Australians about the diversity of carers and their caring role.

**Other Carers Week Events in NSW:**

* Carers Day Out, Redfern Community Centre, Tuesday 15 October 2019
* Over 490 grants, funded by the NSW Government, have been provided for carer support groups and organisations to host local events across the state in metropolitan, rural and regional NSW, 13 to 19 October 2019

A full calendar of Carers Week NSW events is available on **www.carersnsw.org.au/national-carers-week**

### Notes to the editor

**Conference Program**

The full conference program can be downloaded from Carers NSW website: <http://www.carersnsw.org.au/conf2019>

Registrations close **11 October, 2019**. If you require a media pass please contact [commsteam@carersnsw.org.au](mailto:commsteam@carersnsw.org.au)

**About Carers NSW**

Carers NSW is the peak non-government organisation for carers in NSW and a member of the National Network of Carers Associations. Our vision is an Australia that values and supports all carers.

For more information please visit our website: [www.carersnsw.org.au](http://www.carersnsw.org.au)

**Key Statistics**

* There are approximately 904,400 carers across NSW i
* It is estimated that carers provided 1.9 billion hours of unpaid care in 2015. ii
* The replacement value of that care (the cost were it provided by paid care workers) is estimated at $60.3 billion – over $1 billion per week, or 3.8% of GDP iii
* The demand for unpaid carers is at an all-time high and set to increase in the future iv
* The weekly median income of primary carers aged 15 – 64 was 42% lower than that of non-carers v

*i Australian Bureau of Statistics (2015) Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers*

*ii Deloitte Access Economics (2015) The Economic Value of Informal Care in Australia 2015*

*iii Deloitte Access Economics (2015) The Economic Value of Informal Care in Australia 2015*

*iv Deloitte Access Economics (2015) The Economic Value of Informal Care in Australia 2015*

*v Australian Bureau of Statistics (2015) Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers*

For all **media enquiries** and **image requests**, please email [commsteam@carersnsw.org.au](mailto:commsteam@carersnsw.org.au) or call 0421 057 305 after hours.