



The National Carer Strategy Consultation

In October 2024, Cancer Council Australia completed a submission to the Australian Department of Social Services' (the Department) consultation on the draft National Carer Strategy. The Department indicated that Strategy will likely be finalised by the end of 2024 and will be active from 2024-2034. Initial actions are to be implemented in the first two years, alongside the Government investment of \$3.8 million through to 2025-26 for the Strategy.

Cancer Council's submission included the following areas:

- Positioning the Strategy's principles within a human rights approach, including the need to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of carers.
- Addressing the gender inequities in that exist in the caring landscape in Australia, where women represent seven out of 10 primary carers.
- Increasing the profile of the psychological impact of caring, and an improved focus on linkage of carer services to the broader mental health system.
- The need for a transparent, long-term evaluation plan will be the key to tracking how the Strategy is affecting the experiences of carers in Australia.
- Supporting carers to access the services that they require, including psychosocial services.

Information about the progress of the consultation can be found on the Department of Social Services' consultation webpage: <https://engage.dss.gov.au/national-carer-strategy/>