

INQUIRY INTO 2021 REVIEW OF THE DUST DISEASES SCHEME

Organisation: Carers NSW Australia

Date Received: 9 December 2021

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Standing Committee on Law and Justice
Parliament House
Macquarie St, Sydney NSW 2000
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Review of the Dust Diseases scheme

Carers NSW wishes to thank the NSW Standing Committee on Law and Justice for the opportunity to provide a response to the 2021 review of the Dust Diseases Scheme. This submission will focus on the role of the Dust Diseases Scheme in supporting carers and on opportunities to continue to promote carer recognition and inclusion within the Scheme.

Carers NSW is the peak non-government organisation for carers in New South Wales (NSW). A carer is any individual who provides care and support to a family member or friend who has a disability, mental illness, drug and/or alcohol dependency, chronic condition, terminal illness or who is frail. Carers NSW is part of the National Carer Network and a member of Carers Australia. Our vision is an Australia that values and supports all carers, and our goals are to:

- Be a leading carer organisation in which carers have confidence
- Actively promote carer recognition and support
- Actively support carers to navigate a changing service landscape that will be characterised by ongoing policy reform
- Promote connected community experiences and opportunities for carers that are inclusive of diverse carer groups
- Lead and advocate for carer-specific and carer-inclusive policy making, research and service delivery
- Continue to be a quality-driven, responsive and carer-focused organisation.

Carers NSW is pleased that our ongoing partnership with icare has led to the expansion of the Mentoring Carers Program to carers of individuals covered by the Dust Diseases scheme. We also commend icare's inclusion of staff members with lived experience of caring in the client liaison team.

In line with the requirements of public sector agencies under the NSW *Carers (Recognition) Act 2010*, we encourage icare to train and support employees to reflect the principles of the NSW Carers Charter¹, acknowledging and respecting carers' views and experience, and supporting carers to participate fully in family and community life. We recommend that staff provide carers with clear and regular communication, appropriate service referrals and ensure adequate time to explain how the scheme works, recognising their important role as partners in care.

¹ NSW *Carers (Recognition) Act 2010*, Schedule 1.

Additionally, Carers NSW commends and encourages icare's practice of sponsoring and participating in community awareness events frequented by persons impacted by dust diseases, their families and carers. Continued community-based promotion of the scheme and available carer supports will align with the NSW Carers Charter², assisting carers to access appropriate services and supports that aim to facilitate optimal outcomes for their health and wellbeing.

For further information regarding this submission, please contact Grace Robin, Policy Officer, on _____ or _____.

Yours sincerely

Elena Katrakis
CEO
Carers NSW

² NSW Carers (Recognition) Act 2010, Schedule 1.