

CARERS IN VICTORIA THE FACTS



WHO ARE CARERS?

A carer is someone who provides unpaid assistance for family members or friends with care needs. They are parents, children, partners, other relatives and friends who assist with a variety of personal care, health care, transport, household and other activities.

HOW MANY CARERS ARE THERE?

More than 13% (773,400) of Victorians are carers.

They include 217,800 Victorians who are identified as primary carers. They play the key role in caring and assist with communication, mobility and self care.

More than 292,100 Victorians with a severe or profound disability are assisted by family members or friends. This is 94% of all those needing assistance.

CARERS ARE DIVERSE

- Carers are of all ages, but are most likely to be aged 35–54.
- More than 10% of all carers are under the age of 25.
- More than 20% of people aged 75 years or older are carers.
- Seventy-one percent (71%) of all primary carers are women.
- Fifty-six percent (56%) of primary carers are reliant on a government pension or allowance as their main source of income.
- Only 37% of primary carers participate in the workforce.
- Consequently 47% of primary carers have a gross household income in the two lowest quintile levels compared to only 25% of non-carers.

ABOUT CARE SITUATIONS

Forty-nine percent (49%) of carers take on a caring role because they believe they can provide better care than available services.

Thirty-five percent (35%) of primary carers spend on average 40 hours or more per week providing care.

KEY ISSUES

Many people with a caring role do not identify as carers, and so do not access information, services and supports.

Compared to paid care workers, carers are disadvantaged regarding health and safety, holidays, work, leisure and financial security.

The work of unpaid carers contributes enormously to the Australian economy. In 2015, the annual cost of replacing unpaid carers was estimated to be \$60.3 billion.

It is anticipated that, in the coming decades, there will be a major decrease in the availability of carers proportional to people needing care.

Australian Bureau of Statistics (2012) Disability, Ageing and Carers, Victoria: Summary of Findings, 2012 (cat. no. 4430.0)

Access Economics (2015) The economic value of informal care in 2015 Report prepared for Carers Australia.

NATSEM (2004) Who's going to care? Informal care and an ageing population.: a report prepared for Carers Australia.