

Anthony Carbines MP

Parliamentary Secretary for Health
Parliamentary Secretary for Carers and Volunteers

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 23rd September 2019

12,500 EXTRA RESPITE HOURS FOR CARERS IN MELBOURNE'S WEST

Carers in Melbourne's western suburbs are benefitting from more than 12,500 additional hours of respite thanks to a state-wide Victorian Government Carers Package of almost \$50 million.

Parliamentary Secretary for Carers and Volunteers Anthony Carbines today announced funding of more than \$1.25 million from the package for Carers Victoria to provide respite to an additional 600 carers.

The new funding is for respite across Western Melbourne – including Brimbank, Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong, Melton, Melbourne, Moonee Valley and Wyndham local government areas.

The investment builds on \$1.2 million in annual recurrent funding that Carers Victoria receives from the Victorian Government's Support for Carers Program to provide respite across Melbourne's west.

Support for Carers Program eligibility has also been extended to now include all carers regardless of age.

Providers across Victoria are receiving extra funding in 2019–20 from the four-year \$50 million Carers Package, which includes \$42 million for an extra 100,000 extra hours of respite for almost 5,000 carers across Victoria each year.

The Carers Package also includes public transport concessions year-round and free travel in Carers Week for Carer Card holders, as well as community and state-wide grants to support the health and wellbeing of carers. The Carers Package is part of the Victorian Budget 2019/20.

Carers interested in finding out more about respite in Melbourne's west or state-wide should visit Carers Victoria website: www.carersvictoria.org.au/resources/regional-respite-carer-support

Victoria has more than 736,000 carers giving their time and effort to look after a partner, family member or friend who needs them.

The Carers Package forms part of the Victorian Government's *Victorian Carer Strategy 2018–22*, formulated in close consultation with carers. The strategy identifies the need for additional respite as a key priority.

Quote attributable to Parliamentary Secretary for Carers and Volunteers Anthony Carbines:

"Looking after carers is a key priority for the Victorian Government, and I'm particularly proud we can fund these 12,500 extra hours of respite for carers in Melbourne's west."

Quote attributable to Katie Hall MP, Member for Footscray

"Carers play a crucial role in our community and this extra funding gives them the support they need to look after their own health and wellbeing."

Quote attributable to Carers Victoria CEO Scott Walker:

"Carers Victoria would like to thank the Victorian Government for listening to carers and responding with additional funding. We strongly encourage carers in the west to contact us to find out what's available to support them."

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