

# CARERS IN VICTORIA THE FACTS



## WHO ARE CARERS?

A carer is someone who provides unpaid care and support to a family member or friend 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?

11% (703,000) of Victorians are carers.

They include 221,300 Victorians who are identified as primary carers. They play the key role in caring and assist with communication, mobility and self care.

## CARERS ARE DIVERSE

- Carers are of all ages, but are most likely to be aged 55-64.
- 9% of all carers are under the age of 25.
- 15% of people aged 75 years or older are carers.
- 70% of all primary carers are women.
- 37.5% of primary carers are reliant on a government pension or allowance as their main source of income.
- 63% of primary carers participate in the workforce.
- Consequently 37% of primary carers have a gross household income in the two lowest quintile levels compared to only 23.5% of non-carers.

## KEY ISSUES

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

## VICTORIAN CARER STRATEGY

Victorian carer strategy 2018-2022 is the first whole-of-government strategy to support carers as sets the direction for government to support carers. Carers Victoria played a pivotal consultancy role in the development of this strategy which addresses the unique and specific needs of carers across areas such as employment, health, education and financial disadvantage. In highlighting the diverse needs of carers, the strategy provides an important framework for the State Government.

[www.carersvictoria.org.au/  
viccarerstrategy](http://www.carersvictoria.org.au/viccarerstrategy)

*Australian Bureau of Statistics (2018) Disability, Ageing and Carers, Victoria: Summary of Findings, 2018 (cat. no. 4430.0).*

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