Over One Million Carers by 2025

The calculation

According to the most recent ABS Census (2021), Victoria recorded the highest increase in the number of carers in the period since the previous ABS Census 2016 (22%). This is well above the national average (15%).

Carers Victoria has conducted modelling that brings together ABS data and other datasets. Our (conservative) estimate is that by the end of 2025, over 1 million Victorians will be unpaid carers.

This means that at least 1 in every 7 Victorians will be a carer.

What is driving the increase?

Early indications suggest a range of factors are driving this increase including:

1. **An ageing population, coupled with increased longevity**

   More people are living longer, but with greater care needs. This will impact both the number of carers needed and how long they will need to maintain the carer role.

2. **Changes in the social care workforce**

   Much has been made of the challenges of finding enough paid support workers and other critical staff in health and social services. Where those workers can't be found, families, friends and others step in to provide some care.

3. **More people seem to be identifying as carers**

   Historically, some parts of our population have considered caring as a private issue or something they were obliged to do, and for a range of reasons did not identify themselves as an unpaid carer. As awareness grows of who carers are, what they do, and why it's important, we expect more people to publicly identify as carers.

What is the solution?

We need action now to support current carers and prepare for this substantial growth in future carer numbers.

Carers Victoria has identified five immediate priorities for concrete action to achieve this:

› Support carer mental health and wellbeing

› More services and better navigation for carers

› Support carers in crisis

› Support more carers into paid employment and study

› Integrate carer expertise and input into key service systems.

For further information visit
www.carersvictoria.org.au/KnowledgeCentre

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