



Emma Davidson MLA

Minister for Disability

Minister for Justice Health

Minister for Mental Health

Assistant Minister for Seniors, Veterans, Families and Community Services

Member for Murrumbidgee

Our ref: M-21/2495

Dear Community Sector Members,

I am pleased to advise that the ACT Legislative Assembly passed the *Carers Recognition Act 2021* (the Carers Recognition Act) on 2 December 2021, to formally recognise the vital role carers play in our community.

The Carers Recognition Act came into effect on 10 December 2021 and sets out 'care relationship principles', which illustrate the importance of the connection between a carer and the person receiving care. The principles include key elements, such as respect and recognition, and acknowledge carers' diverse support needs and circumstances.

The legislation provides for carers to be recognised, respected and valued by government and nongovernment organisations. It encourages organisations to listen to carers, take their concerns seriously, and respond to their needs.

The Carers Recognition Act places responsibility on organisations to support people in care relationships, to adhere to and raise awareness of the principles, to report annually on work done for carers, and to consult with carers on matters that impact their care relationships. The attached information sheet describes the types of organisations covered by the Carers Recognition Act and outlines their obligations to people in care relationships.

Carers play a vital role in supporting the wellbeing, inclusion and participation of people across the Territory. The Carers Recognition Act will assist in recognising and supporting the part they play in improving the quality of life for so many Canberrans.

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I welcome your organisation's ongoing commitment to carers and commend to you the Carers Recognition Act.

Yours sincerely

Emma Davidson MLA

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emma Davidson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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