

**2021**

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE  
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**Government Response to the Standing Committee on Health and Wellbeing Report on  
Inquiry into the Carers Recognition Bill 2021**

**Presented by  
Emma Davidson MLA  
Minister for Disability  
December 2021**





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Mr Johnathan Davis MLA

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Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

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Our ref: CSI-21/486

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Dear Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Thank you for undertaking an inquiry and report on the Private Member's Bill, the Carers Recognition Bill 2021 (the Bill), and for making several recommendations to Ms Suzanne Orr MLA and the ACT Government. Establishing carer recognition legislation is an important step to formally recognise the vital role of carers and embed this recognition across the ACT community.

The draft Bill outlines care relationship principles and establishes obligations for awareness-raising, annual reporting and consultation, for a range of agencies and organisations. These measures complement the ACT Government's ongoing support for the carer community through the *ACT Carers Strategy* (the Strategy), developed in partnership with Carers ACT and a panel of carers in 2017. Governance of the Strategy continues to provide opportunities for carer participation, ensuring progress and reporting are informed by carers' expertise and lived experience.

The ACT Government has closely reviewed the Private Member's Bill and considered the recommendations made by the Committee. I am pleased to advise that the ACT Government will be supporting the Bill with no amendments. I note Ms Orr is the Private Member responsible for the Bill and may make amendments to the Bill prior to debate in the Legislative Assembly, to address issues raised during the Committee's inquiry.

The effective enactment of legislation often requires resourcing for implementation across government and community providers. The ACT Government notes where the Committee's

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recommendations suggest resourcing or implementation implications, this is subject to future government budget considerations.

This government remains committed to supporting carers, who assist so many vulnerable people across our community. The caring role is diverse and challenging, and this Bill is a timely acknowledgement, particularly in the context of the public health emergency. The Bill formally recognises carers' contribution, and I will be pleased to support it.

Yours sincerely

Emma Davidson MLA  
Assistant Minister for Seniors, Veterans, Families and Community Services