

2024

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

ELEVENTH ASSEMBLY

PAPER FOR TABLING

ACT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24 ADDENDUM

**Presented by
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Minister for Human Rights
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Supporting carers with services and advocacy

As part of its core service and support delivery, the Commission routinely provided services to carers and advocated on their behalf as summarised below; and detailed throughout this report.

During the reporting period the Commission was able to accept complaints about services for people with a disability and their carers; and about services for older people and their carers. In 2023-24, the Commission handled 16 discrimination complaints relating to a parent, family, carer or kinship relationship. See table 8 and case studies on page 40, 41. The Discrimination, Health Services, Disability and Community Services Commission also met with carers and carer support organisations about their rights regarding discrimination, health services, disability services and services for older people such as aged care and retirement villages.

Victim Support ACT (VSACT) provided counselling and other services to the parents of primary victims, as well as advocacy in relation to upholding rights under the Charter or Rights for Victims of Crime. VSACT also provided financial assistance to parents/carers of primary victims, for loss of earnings and for reasonable expenses. (See table 14.)

The Public Advocate and Children and Young People Commissioner (PACYPC) engaged with the carers of adults with a disability, and advocated for young people and carers in kinship, foster and family-based care arrangements, including advocacy in the courts and tribunals. The PACYPC also attended events recognising kinship carers, worked with peak body ADACAS and raised awareness among carers and parents about issues such as corporal punishment and rights for children and young people. (See pages 80, 89 90, 98 and 124.)

Staff at the Commission accessed carer's leave, flexible working arrangements and were able to bring children to the office, to enable them to fulfil their caring responsibilities. A dedicated carer's room is available for staff use.