

30/05/2024

Dear members of the Education and Community Inclusion (ECI) Committee,

Thank you again for inviting Carers ACT to participate in the public hearing for the Inquiry into Loneliness and Social Isolation in the ACT.

I would like to draw attention to a moment within the hearing where I misspoke and may have caused some confusion. During the hearing I said, *"The idea of having a card that recognises them as a carer, even if they are not meeting minimum Carers Australia criteria, is about having something that says, 'I am a carer'. I do something above and beyond what is expected"*. In this, I incorrectly said **'Carers Australia'** in place of **'Services Australia'**.

To clarify, my point was that carers who do not meet minimum Services Australia eligibility requirements to receive carer payments often feel as though their entire status as a carer has been rejected, and as a result they lose that sense of identity and recognition of their role. A card from the Government that is specifically for recognising someone's care identity may help address this.

I appreciate that the transcript must reflect what was said verbatim, however I hope you will accept this clarification.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

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