



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**WEDNESDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2015**

## **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WINNERS ANNOUNCED FOR NATIONAL CARER AWARDS**

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA:** Life Without Barriers and Carers Australia have today announced the South Australian winners for the National Carer Awards 2015.

The winners were announced at a ceremony at Parliament House Adelaide, hosted by The Hon. Zoe Bettison MP, Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteers

The national awards recognise and celebrate unpaid carers and foster and kinship carers for the extraordinary contribution they make to the community.

Maureen Brown and husband and wife team Pat and Keith Sutton were named as dual SA winners in the Family Carer Award category. Leah Potter and Kevin Rewell won the Foster and Kinship Carer Award while eleven year old Laryssa King was the Young Carer Award winner for South Australia.

“Carers make a substantial contribution to our community and awards such as these are an important way of thanking them for their dedication and highlighting the importance of their role.

“I congratulate all the nominees and winners announced today,” Ms Bettison said.

There are over 2.7 million <sup>1</sup> unpaid carers in Australia of which over 770,000 are primary carers. There are a further 9,000 people who are foster carers and thousands more who care for a child who is known or related to them but not their own, known as kinship carers.

Chief Executive of Life Without Barriers Claire Robbs said carers take on an immense workload and often it’s a long term commitment on their behalf.

“We want to give the community a better understanding of unpaid carers across the country as they have such an important role in the lives of people they support,” she said.

Carers Australia CEO Ara Creswell said anyone, any time, can become a carer.

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<sup>1</sup> ABS 2012, Survey of Disability, Ageing & Carers

“The chances are you personally *are* a carer, *need* a carer or *know* a carer. Carers are an integral part of Australia's health system and are the foundation of our aged, disability, palliative and community care systems,” Ms Creswell said.

State and territory winners will be in the running to receive a national carer award across the three categories (one winner per category): Family Carer, Foster and Kinship Carer, Young Carer aged 25 years and under. Carers eligible for these awards are unpaid but may be receiving carer-related government payment or a reimbursement.

The National Carer Awards is a partnership between Carers Australia and Life Without Barriers and runs in every state and territory.

The Awards are funded by the Department of Social Services.

The national award winners will be announced in February 2016. To learn more about the National Carer Awards 2015 visit [www.carerawards.com.au](http://www.carerawards.com.au).

**ENDS**

**For an interview or to organise photos please contact:**

**Maree Brindley on (02) 9307 9309 0417 210 690 or [Maree.Brindley@lwb.org.au](mailto:Maree.Brindley@lwb.org.au)**

**About Life Without Barriers:**

Life Without Barriers has grown from humble beginnings into one of the most significant not-for-profit organisations in Australia, delivering services in over 250 communities across Australia and New Zealand. Our community-based programs assist children and young people, people with a disability, older Australians, and vulnerable and marginalised communities.

**About Carers Australia:**

Carers Australia is the national peak body representing Australia's carers, advocating on behalf of Australia's carers to influence policies and services at a national level. It works collaboratively with partners and its member organisations, the Network of state and territory Carers Associations, to deliver a range of essential national carer services.

References

<sup>1</sup>-ABS (2012) *Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers*.