



MEDIA RELEASE

TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2015

STATE & TERRITORY WINNERS ANNOUNCED FOR NATIONAL CARER AWARDS

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY: Life Without Barriers and Carers Australia have today announced the ACT winners for the National Carer Awards 2015.

The winners were presented by The Hon. Mick Gentleman MP, Minister for Children and Young People, Minister for Ageing.

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

Marilyn Nowlan and Elizabeth Stanuga were named today as the ACT winners in two categories: Family Carer and Foster and Kinship Carer, respectively.

The Minister for Children and Young People, Mick Gentleman MLA, said it was a privilege to host the awards.

“There are about 45,000 unpaid family and friend carers in the ACT – representing more than one in 10 Canberrans. Kinship and foster care households also provide care to hundreds of vulnerable children,” he said.

“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,” Mr Gentleman said.

Chief Executive of Life Without Barriers Claire Robbs said carers often take on an immense workload.

“The state and territory winners of the National Carer Awards have been recognised for the extraordinary unpaid support they provide. These carers work quietly behind the scenes and often it’s a long term commitment on their behalf,” Ms Claire Robbs said.

“Anyone, any time, can become a carer. 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,” said Carers Australia CEO Ara Creswell.

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.

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

www.carersawards.com.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

¹. ABS (2012) *Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers*.

