



MEDIA RELEASE

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WESTERN AUSTRALIAN WINNERS ANNOUNCED FOR NATIONAL CARER AWARDS

Perth, WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Life Without Barriers and Carers Australia have today announced the Western Australian winners for the National Carer Awards 2015.

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

Sue Weston and Andrea Green were named as dual WA winners in the Family Carer Award category. **Angela Haligan and Marcia & Trevor Brownley** were dual winners of the Foster and Kinship Carer Award while **Ellie Moir** was the Young Carer Award winner for Western Australia.

Minister for Social Services, Christian Porter presented the awards at a ceremony in Perth and highlighted the importance of carers in Australia.

“Carers make a substantial contribution to our community and awards such as these are an important way of recognising their work,” he said.

“I thank all the winners and finalists for their continued dedication to a vital role.”

There are over 2.7 million ¹ 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 Cresswell 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,” Ms Cresswell said.

¹ ABS 2012, Survey of Disability, Ageing & Carers

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.

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For an interview or to organise photos please contact:

Maree Brindley on (02) 9307 9309 0417 210 690 or 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

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