



The Gippsland Carer



MP Calls for GCA Funding



Melina Bath, Member for Eastern Victoria Region has called on the current Labor Victorian State Government to fund the Gippsland Carers for an administrative position. Ms Bath has spoken in parliament about the needs of carers in the Gippsland area, and the need for administration support for those caring for the Carers. Her press release can be found on page 3, and the Hansard notes below. Ms Bath is strongly campaigning alongside other long term supporters in parliament, and has met with Dale Harriman amongst others to find out the true situation.

Extract from Parliamentary Debates

Hansard

Ms Bath

Eastern Victoria

Adjournment

Gippsland Carers Association

Wednesday 5th August 2015.

My adjournment matter this evening is about the funding of a part-time administration officer for the Gippsland Carers Association, and it is directed to the Minister for Families and Children, the Honourable Jenny Mikakos.

The Gippsland Carers Association was founded in 1997 to improve the lives of unpaid carers and those for whom they care.

Unpaid family carers provide a significant and irreplaceable contribution to the welfare and wellbeing of their family members, children and adults with dependent disabilities.

Statistically carers have been found to have the lowest health ratings and the highest rates of depression and to be more vulnerable to heart attacks than people in any other sector of the community.

In Gippsland the coalition funded a part-time administration officer for the Gippsland Carers Association to the tune of \$25 000 a year for four years.

However, the funding ran out at the end of this financial year, and the Labor government has not renewed it.

This funding paid for an administration officer to work 19 hours a week, which allowed the carer mentor to be out on the road helping our carers.

This is an important position in our community. Without an administration officer the carer mentor has to sit in the office and divide her time between being out in the community where she is needed and being back in the office doing administration.

This drastically reduces the carer mentor's face-to-face time. It is important that she be able to be out in the field.

The carer mentor provides support to the carer by looking after the carer's loved ones in their home and supporting the carer.

This results in huge savings for government because it reduces the amount of time that people needing care spent in nursing homes and respite centres, as well as reducing the drain on the public hospital system.

Without the funds to support the administration officer the Gippsland Carers Association is left facing a difficult decision: either to cut back on direct face-to-face support for carers or to cut back on other initiatives to help fund the part-time administration officer.

I call on the minister to match the commitment of the previous coalition government and guarantee the Gippsland Carers Association funding of the small amount of \$25 000 per year for the next four years so it is able to continue this great work.

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Pricing and catalogue changes from 1 August 2015

A simpler, easier to use catalogue for funded NDIS supports and services, changes for the 2015-16 indexation for services and the introduction of an establishment fee to be applicable for personal support and community participation services will be introduced by the National Disability Insurance Agency from 1 August 2015.

With the application of indexation, the NDIA is providing more time for service providers in personal support and community participation to make the transition to the full scheme pricing arrangements.

1. New catalogue

The new catalogue follows an extensive redesign of the construct of plans based on participant and provider experiences in the trial sites, which will enable greater flexibility in purchasing. The catalogue redesign is also supported by a simpler and shorter price list, which will make it easier for providers to claim funds. The new catalogue also aims to reduce confusion amongst participants and providers about the array of supports that can be funded through the NDIS.

The new, simpler catalogue will help ensure that NDIS planning is better aligned to participant outcomes, focusing on core supports, and investments by the Agency in capacity building and purchase of assistive technology to increase participants independence and reduce long term costs.

This approach will encourage the development of innovative support options for NDIS participants, enabling greater choice and flexibility in support arrangements that participants can work out with providers. This approach is preferable to plans being limited by fixed

line items based on outputs such as hours of service delivered.

2. Indexation 2015-16

The new indexation arrangements reflect the NDIA's commitment to supporting service providers to make the transition to the NDIS over coming years, ensuring a strong supply of services and a competitive, diverse market providing real choice and high quality services for NDIS participants.

Under the arrangements to come in place from 1 August 2015, the NDIA is increasing the transition period for personal support and community participation by increasing the current pricing by 1.9% for all states bringing forward the December Equal Remuneration Order (ERO) increase.

On top of this 1.9% increase, the NDIA will apply the annual indexation of 2.3% to prices in NSW, Tasmania and Victoria for personal support and community participation to help bring the current transition prices in line with those already established in WA, SA and NT.

All other services subject to indexation, outside of personal support and community participation, will be indexed by 2.3%.

This means that from 1 August 2015, the increases are:

- Personal support and Community participation Victoria, NSW and Tasmania: wage indexation and ERO, resulting in a 4.2% increase for all supports related to these services, boosting the rate for daytime support from \$39.52 per hour to \$41.18 per hour.
- Personal support and Community participation WA, SA, ACT and NT: narrowing the different pricing

arrangements with an ERO increase of 1.9%, resulting in an increase in the rate for daytime support from \$41.97 per hour to \$42.77 per hour.

- All other pricing subject to indexation an increase of 2.3%. Higher prices will continue to be paid for participants requiring higher intensity supports and for services delivered after hours, and will be indexed for 2015-16 commensurate to day rates.

3. Establishment fee allowance

Following the completion of the pricing review for personal support and community participation in 2014, the Agency will be introducing an establishment fee allowance within the plans for participants who utilise more than 20 hours per month of these services.

These new pricing arrangements follow extensive consultation with service providers and will provide more time for the sector to adapt to the target efficient price for personal and community supports.

The Agency remains committed to achieving an efficient price for the delivery of disability supports as part of a longer term transition towards a deregulated pricing environment around the time of full scheme implementation.

The NDIA continues to actively engage with current and potential providers to understand business models, major challenges (including market structure and pricing) and opportunities presenting themselves in the market.

<http://www.ndis.gov.au/providers/pricing-and-payment/pricing-changes-2015>

Accessed 19/8/15

Would you like to find out more about pricing?

Visit the website to find specific information about the new pricing. A pdf copy is downloadable on the website also, or you can contact us to get a copy emailed to you.

Visit: <http://www.ndis.gov.au/2015-price-guide-vic-nsw-tas>

Gippsland Carers Association Inc

Invites Members, Carers & Interested people to our

18th AGM & Carers Forum Tuesday 13th October, 2015



Kernot Hall Foyer
Princes Way,
MORWELL
10.00am to 2.00pm
Registration & Morning
Tea from 9.30am

Guest Speakers

Including...

Will Ernest
Latrobe City Carer
Respite Services

Melissa Marr
Carer Mentor

A Special Resolution to change the GCA Purposes & Rules will be presented and voted on by all financial members. We encourage you all to attend, as a minimum number needs to be met.

Remember to call LCHS
Respite for Carers Program
if you need respite
on the day
On 1800 052 222

Forum Entry Fee
\$5
to help cover expenses

Morning Tea & light
lunch provided
If you have
special dietary needs
please notify us

Display Tables available
To Book
03 5133 3343
03 5127 1904

**Booking is essential for
Catering Purposes**
Register by Contacting Carers Place

Phone: 5133 3343 or;
Email: info@gippslandcarers.org
Mail: PO Box 937, MOE 3825

RSVP: Tuesday 6th October 2015

AIN A0035748T - ABN 20 54730612
www.gippslandcarers.org

Retiring Committee members
that can stand for re-election are
Jean Tops and Neil Trease.

All financial members are eligible to nominate
for a committee position. Nominations must be
to the secretary by Tuesday 6th October 2015.
Application forms are available by contacting
the office.

Membership renewal can be
completed and paid on the day (cash or
cheque only).



GIPPSLAND CARERS ASSOCIATION INC.

The 18th AGM and Carers Forum

Tuesday 13th October

Notice to all Members

Special Resolution to change the GCA Purposes & Rules

Overview:

Under section 46 of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012, Consumer Affairs Victoria published a new set of "Model Rules for Incorporated Associations."

These new rules were intended to assist organisations to comply with these rules by either:

1. Adopting the new Model Rules in total without change; or
2. Creating new rules that comply with the Model Rules for Associations.

Note: As Gippsland Carers Association has some unique rules to ensure that carers and former carers are always in the majority in the association and the committee, we have consulted with the advisor at Consumer affairs prior to making our changes.

Consumer affairs advised us that any changes to the 'Model Rules for Associations' would mean our new rules would be our own rules. It was therefore necessary to rewrite our entire Constitution and rules to ensure they comply with the model rules.

To make this exercise as simple as possible we have kept the content, sequence and numbering of the model rules in almost all cases and only changed our rules to ensure our special rules applying to carer and families are kept.

There are 77 rules in the Model Rules document and the last of these is as follows:

77 Alteration of Rules

These Rules may only be altered by special resolution of a general meeting of the Association.

Note: *An alteration of these Rules does not take effect unless or until it is approved by the Registrar. If these Rules (other than rule 1, 2 or 3) are altered, the Association is taken to have adopted its own rules, not the model rules.*

Therefore, your Committee have resolved to put a Special Resolution to adopt the new Purposes and Rules for the Association at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Tuesday 13th October.

There is a requirement for any Special Resolution to be passed by three quarters of the financial members present and voting at the meeting.

It is therefore very important that all financial members do their best to attend this AGM to assist the committee to comply with the new rules.

To obtain a copy of the new rules financial members can

1. Call in at Carers Centre Tues, Wed, Thurs, between 9.30am and 3.30pm and get a copy.
2. Phone carers Centre on 03 5133 3343 and ask for a copy to be posted to you.
3. Email Anoesjka on info@gippslandcarers.org for an email copy to be sent to you.

Authorised by the Committee of Management on Tuesday 18-8-15

GCA is thankful for the support of The Ian Potter Foundation

Bath calls on Labor to provide funds for Gippsland Carers Association

Tuesday 11th August 2015

Nationals Member for Eastern Victoria Region Melina Bath is calling on the Labor Government to fund an administration officer for the Gippsland Carers Association so it can continue its valuable work.

Speaking in parliament recently Ms Bath said the Coalition had provided \$25,000 a year over four years for a part-time administration officer for the association however the funding ran out at the end of last financial year and the Labor government has not renewed it.

“This funding paid for an administration officer to work 19 hours a week, which allowed the association’s carer mentor to be out on the road helping our carers,” Ms Bath said.

“Without an administration officer the carer mentor needs to divide her time between being out in the community where she is needed and being back in the office doing administration.”

Ms Bath said the carer mentor helped looked after the carer in their own home and offered a range of support to them.

“This results in huge savings for the government because it reduces the amount of time that people needing care spend in nursing homes and respite centres, as well as reducing the drain on the public hospital system,” she told the parliament.

“Without the funds to support the administration officer the Gippsland Carers Association is left facing a difficult decision: either to cut back on direct face-to-face support for carers or to cut back on other initiatives to help fund the part-time administration officer.”

Gippsland Carers Association president Jean Tops said the funding was critical to the volunteer committee of management’s ability to open its centre three days a week and provide necessary support for unpaid carers across Gippsland.

“Without an administration support officer we will be forced to reduce our opening hours to just two days a week and that means carers across Gippsland will miss out on vital support,”

Ms Tops said.

Ms Bath said she hoped the Labor Government would value the work of the Gippsland Carers Association and provide the funding needed for an administration officer.

She said often the work provided by carers went unnoticed and it was important Gippsland carer’s contributions were recognised.

“The perfect opportunity to recognise these wonderful people is by nominating a local carer for the National Carer Awards,” Ms Bath said.

Now in its second year the National Carer Awards is a partnership between Carers Australia and Life Without Barriers and celebrates the unpaid carers and foster/kinship carers.

“These awards are a fantastic opportunity to recognise community members in Gippsland for the outstanding contribution they provide to the people they support,” Ms Bath said.

Ms Bath said there were many carers in Gippsland doing extraordinary work which was often not recognised.

“Unpaid family carers provide a significant and irreplaceable contribution to the welfare and well-being of their family members, children and adults with dependent disabilities,” she said.

Nominations are open now under four categories: Young Carer (aged 26 and under); Foster and Kinship Carer; Family Carers (general unpaid carer of a family member or friend); Caring in the Country (unpaid carer located within rural and remote locations).

Nominations close on Sunday 6 September. To nominate a carer visit: www.carerawards.com.au

**Are you a Carer?
Do you need help?**

**Call Melissa
(0429) 892 260**



**Application for Membership 2015-2016
Gippsland Carers Association Inc**

AINA0035748T - PO Box 937, Moe, VIC, 3825

**2015-2016
Membership Application or Renewal Form**

Membership Cards for 2015-2016 are YELLOW.
All memberships are now due for renewal.

Mr/Mrs/Ms _____

Address _____

State _____ Post Code _____

Phone () _____

Email _____

I am a (please circle)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Carer | Former Carer |
| Supporter | |
| Carer Family | Support Group |
| Small Agency (<5 staff) | Large Agency (>5 staff) |

Membership Fees:

Carer / Former Carer / Supporter	\$ 5.00
Carer Family / Carer Support Group	\$10.00
Small Agency	\$30.00
Large Agency	\$50.00
Agency Request for Mail List only	\$20.00

Tax Invoice

Gippsland Carers Association Inc.
ABN 20547306121
PO Box 937 Moe, Victoria, 3825

Carer / Former Carer / Supporter	\$ _____
Carer Family / Carer Support Group	\$ _____
Small Agency	\$ _____
Large Agency	\$ _____
Agency Request for Mail List only	\$ _____
Donation	\$ _____

Total \$ _____

Your donations are gratefully accepted to assist us to "Make a Difference" for all caring families. Payment can now be made via Paypal, using your credit card.

Donations over \$2.00 are Tax Deductible.

For more details visit our website: www.gippslandcarers.org



Carers Support Group

**Meeting Information for 2015
Morwell**



Meetings are held on the
First Wednesday
of each month.
10:00 am—12:00 pm

- 2 September
- 7 October
- 4 November
- * School Holidays

*Call Melissa to confirm
(0429) 892 260*

Gippsland Disability Advocacy
8 Hopetoun Ave, Morwell VIC 3840



Carers Support Group

**Meeting Information for 2015
Warragul**

NEW GROUP!



Meetings are held on the
Fourth Wednesday
of each month.
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

*Call Melissa to confirm
(0429) 892 260*

- 26 August
- 23 September *
- 28 October
- 25 November
- * School Holidays

Warragul Library
75 Victoria St, Warragul VIC 3820

