













Number of Carers

Estimated number **2.7 Millionⁱ**
 Percentage of population **11%**



Current Practices	Opportunities to Increase Support
 <p>Unpaid carers are formally recognized in Australia.ⁱⁱ</p>	<p>Increase levels of discussion and bring awareness to the unmet challenges that unpaid carers continue to face.</p>
 <p>The Australian Government provides a Carers Allowance, an income supplement available to people who provide daily care in a private home to a person with disability or a severe medical condition.ⁱⁱⁱ A Carer Supplement is an annual payment for recipients of the Carer Allowance for each person being cared for.^{iv}</p>	<p>Address delays that unpaid carers face when accessing support payments.</p>
 <p>Basic work entitlements are protected by Australia’s Fair Work Act (2009). Those who provide unpaid care and are in the workforce are entitled to request flexible working conditions and may be eligible for paid leave, unpaid leave and compassionate leave.^v</p>	<p>Increase access to flexible working conditions.</p>
 <p>Australia does not have a pension credits system, but the government provides a payment called a Carer Payment to unpaid carers who provide full-time care and pass an income test.^{vi}</p>	<p>Revise Carer Payment eligibility requirements to increase access, especially for unpaid carers of people who have episodic conditions.</p>
 <p>The Department of Social Services funds organizations to help unpaid carers access emergency respite and respite subsidies. Planned respite is available through the Aged Care System.^{vii}</p>	<p>Increase respite care funding and make respite care services more readily available and easier to access.</p>
 <p>Unpaid carers can access a range of nationally provided digital services including counseling, peer support, coaching and education. Unpaid carers can identify and connect to face-to-face services in their locality through the Government’s Carer Gateway website and call center.^{vii}</p>	<p>Increase awareness of training and services currently available to unpaid carers.</p>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  Legislation </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Working arrangements </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Respite care </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  Financial support </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Pension credits </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Information and training </div> </div>	

Government Recognition

Carer Recognition Act (2010)

Aged Care Act (1997)

National Disability Strategy and Mental Health Strategy

Legislation at a state and territory level

References

ⁱ Australian Government Department of Social Services. (2018). Supporting Carers. Page 1. <https://www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers/carers>. [Date Accessed: 16 July 2018]

ⁱⁱ Australian Government Carer Gateway. (2017). Legal Rights for Carers. Page 1. <https://www.carergateway.gov.au/legal-rights-for-carers>. [Date Accessed: 16 July 2018]

ⁱⁱⁱ Australian Government Department of Social Services. (2016). Carer Allowance. Page 1. <https://www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers/benefits-payments/carers-allowance>. [Date Accessed: 16 July 2018]

^{iv} Australian Government Department of Social Services. (2016). Carer Supplement. Page 1. <https://www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers/benefits-payments/carers-supplement>. [Date Accessed: 16 July 2018]

^v Australian Government Fair Work Ombudsman. (2017). Requests for flexible working arrangements and the National Employment Standards Fact Sheet. Page 1. <https://www.fairwork.gov.au/how-we-will-help/templates-and-guides/fact-sheets/minimum-workplace-entitlements/requests-for-flexible-working-arrangements>. [Date Accessed: 16 July 2018]

^{vi} Australian Government Department of Social Services. (2016). Carer Payment. Page 1. <https://www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers/benefits-payments/carers-payment>. [Date Accessed: 16 July 2018]

^{vii} Australian Government MyAgedCare. (2017). Respite Care. Page 1. <https://www.myagedcare.gov.au/respice-care>. [Date Accessed: 16 July 2018]

^{viii} Australian Government Department of Social Services. (2018). Supporting Carers. Page 1. <https://www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers/carers>. [Date Accessed: 16 July 2018]