

Carer Rights in WA

Under the Western Australian Carers Charter:

1. Carers must be treated with respect and dignity.
2. The role of carers must be recognised by including carers in the assessment, planning, delivery and review of services that impact on them and the role of carers.
3. The views and needs of carers must be taken into account along with the views, needs and best interests of people receiving care when decisions are made that impact on carers and the role of carers.
4. Complaints made by carers in relation to services that impact on them and the role of carers must be given due attention and consideration.

The Carers Recognition Act 2004 came into effect on 1 January 2005 and is an important step in supporting the crucial and often difficult and complex role of carers.

The Act is aimed at changing the culture of service providers so that the impact on carers is considered when services are assessed, planned, delivered and reviewed.

A key part of the Act requires service providers to comply with the Western Australian Carers Charter. The Charter provides clear direction on how carers are to be treated and how carers are to be involved in the delivery of services. The Act also establishes the Carers Advisory Council which monitors compliance with the legislation and provides advice to the Government on matters relating to carers.

The Carers Recognition Act 2004 is acknowledging the more than 240,000 carers in WA who provide informal or unpaid care to family members, friends or neighbours. It is the first legislation of its type in Australia.

For further information about the Carers Recognition Act 2004 contact
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