

CARERS ADVISORY COUNCIL ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORT 2021–22

Statement by Minister for Community Services

MS S.E. WINTON (Wanneroo — Minister for Community Services) [9.14 am]: I rise to table the *Carers Advisory Council annual compliance report 2021–22*, which outlines the performance of public and funded health service providers and the Disability Services Commission pursuant to the Carers Recognition Act 2004.

In this context, carers are people who provide unpaid care and support to a person living with disability; mental illness; long-term health conditions, including chronic conditions or terminal illness; alcohol or drug dependency; or people who are frail aged. The person they care for may be a parent, partner, sibling, child, relative, friend or neighbour. The love and support carers provide the person they care for often goes unrecognised, despite its significance. As the Minister for Community Services, I am passionate about continuing to highlight the important role carers play in our community.

In tabling this report today, I echo the council’s congratulations to public and funded health providers that continue to demonstrate their ongoing fulfilment of the Western Australian Carers Charter, including by carers’ lived experience and expertise in the design and delivery of services and programs, as evident in this year’s compliance report. I am heartened by the efforts of the Western Australian service providers detailed in this compliance report, which includes many examples of good practice and efforts to involve carers and recognise their lived experience in the design of policy and decision-making.

The valuable role played by carers is becoming increasingly recognised and, appropriately, carers are being better involved and supported. However, there is always more to do, and a greater focus would reduce the administrative, financial and emotional burdens of those carers. The council has outlined areas of suggested improvement, which I urge service providers to seriously examine. I would like to thank the council for its work on this report, and particularly acknowledge chair, Esme Bowen, for her ongoing empathic and effective leadership of the council. I look forward to advising the house of further improvements by providers that recognise and support carers in advocating for their family and loved ones. I commend the Carers Advisory Council’s 2021–22 compliance report to the house.

[See paper [2024](#).]