

22 May 2012

Miriam Margolyes and Carers NSW team up to put the spotlight on carers!

Miriam Margolyes OBE, acclaimed UK actress, voice artist and valued Friend of Carers NSW, will put the spotlight on carers next week, appearing at a Carers NSW event *What the Dickens is a Carer?*

On Tuesday 29 May in the midst of her hectic schedule touring her one woman show *Dickens' Women*, Miriam will join fellow Friend of Carers NSW and media personality, **Julie McCrossin**, to lead a conversation on caring, discussing her caring experiences, Dickens and life.

Carers NSW CEO Elena Katrakis said, "There have been a number of exciting developments for carers recently such as the introduction of a NDIS, and aged care reforms. This event with Miriam is another opportunity to further raise public awareness of unpaid carers and the enormous contribution that they make to society," Ms Katrakis said.

Miriam is best known for her film appearances in two *Harry Potter* films, *Romeo + Juliet*, *The Age of Innocence*, *Babe*, and *Little Dorrit*. In 2002, Miriam was awarded an OBE (Order of the British Empire) for her services to drama.

As well as being an acclaimed actress, Miriam has also previously cared for both her elderly parents, and has a very strong commitment to carers and the issues they face.

Miriam said she was excited about the opportunity to help support the estimated 850,000 carers in NSW by teaming up with Carers NSW for the event.

"Having been a carer myself I have a personal understanding and deep commitment to the issues carers face. I know how tough it can be. I look forward to sharing my experiences as a carer at this wonderful event," said Miriam.

"Miriam's contribution and continued support of Carers NSW is invaluable. Her personal experience as a carer and dedication to the carer cause will bring a unique perspective to our event," Ms Katrakis said.

The *What the Dickens is a Carer?* luncheon will see Miriam and a widely diverse range of invited carers, corporate, government and community sector guests engage in a conversation about caring.

"We are thrilled at the interest we have received for this event from across the corporate and community sectors," Ms Katrakis said.

Connecting with guests in a relaxed and fun way, Julie McCrossin will facilitate the event and with her trademark warmth, humour and intelligence, interweave stories from carers in the audience with Miriam's endearingly frank reminiscences about her caring experience.

To arrange an interview with Miriam Margolyes, the CEO or President of Carers NSW, at the event, contact Emma George, Media Officer, on 02 9280 4744 or 0400 061 100 or emmag@carersnsw.asn.au