

30 May 2013

Carers NSW launches *together* program

Carers NSW and the NSW Department of Family and Community Services, Ageing, Disability and Home Care have launched a new program to provide support, training and networking opportunities to support groups for carers of people with disabilities.

The *together* program will commence across the southern, western and far western areas of New South Wales this month, and will then be progressively rolled out across the rest of the state from June.

Carers NSW CEO, Elena Katrakis said the program would help to create a strong network of support groups for carers of people with disabilities across the state.

“Carer support groups play an important role in the lives of many carers in New South Wales so it is important for us to support these groups and the work they do.”

“Many carer support groups operate in isolation and do not benefit from the knowledge and experiences of other groups and organisations.”

“The *together* program will connect these groups to local organisations in their area allowing them to collaborate and share information and resources. It will also provide training, education and support for the facilitator and provide limited funding to cover some of the group’s running costs.”

Ms Katrakis said that there were a significant number of carer support groups for carers of people with disabilities in New South Wales and that thousands of carers could benefit from the program.

“The *together* program will support a network of up to 200 carer support groups for carers of people with disabilities across New South Wales. When you consider that there are several carers in each group, it’s exciting to think of how many carers will benefit from this program.”

The *together* program is part of the NSW Government’s *Stronger Together 2* initiative and is funded by the NSW Department of Family and Community Services, Ageing, Disability and Home Care.

Carer support groups for carers of people with disabilities, disability organisations, local councils, Government departments and not-for-profit organisations across the southern, western and far western areas of New South Wales can submit an Expression of Interest at www.togethersupportgroups.net.au or by ringing 02 9280 4744.

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