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## The NDIS one year in: A perspective from carers in NSW

Carers NSW has this week released *The NDIS one year in: Experiences of carers in the Hunter trial site*, an issues paper which aims to contribute information about carers' experiences to the ongoing development and implementation of the NDIS.

This paper draws on Carers NSW research, consultation and policy analysis from the first year of the NSW trial.

Carers NSW CEO, Elena Katrakis said, "Carers NSW has been following the development of the NDIS with great interest. The presence of a trial site in NSW has enabled us to hear directly from carers and service providers about their experiences and concerns"

"In addition to a number of positive stories, Carers NSW has identified some key challenges which require consideration and responsive solutions," Ms Katrakis said.

Key findings include that carers of NDIS participants are not entitled to assessment funded supports in their own right and many people with disability and their carers will not even be eligible for the NDIS. The future of carer support as NSW transitions towards the NDIS is highly uncertain.

Ms Katrakis said, "Carers are not the focus of the NDIS, however they will be expected to provide ongoing informal support for many participants,"

"It is imperative carers' support needs are properly addressed into the future, either as part of the NDIS or in conjunction with it,"

"Gaining the trust of carers and adequately supporting them to care sustainably into the future will be essential for the NDIS to succeed."

Specifically Carers NSW calls for: better information around how the NDIS will affect carers; all carers who are involved in planning with NDIS participants to be entitled to assessment of their own needs, referrals and funded supports in their own right and the provision of appropriate support to assist them as they navigate the new system.

Further information: For further information or to read the issues paper visit;  
<http://www.carersnsw.org.au/news-events/news>

Media Contact: Media and Communications Team, Carers NSW,  
[commsteam@carersnsw.org.au](mailto:commsteam@carersnsw.org.au), 02 9280 4744 or 0400 061 100