

Support for carers

Programs and support services that are offered to all carers include:

Financial assistance, in the form of either Carer Payment or Carer Allowance.

- **Carer Payment** provides income support to people whose caring responsibilities prevent them from undertaking substantial workforce participation. The payment is means tested and paid at the same rate as other social security pensions.
- **Carer Allowance** is a supplementary payment for people who provide daily care and attention at home to a person who has disabilities or a severe medical condition. The payment is not means tested, and can be paid in addition to an income support payment.

Formal opportunities to consult with Government on issues relevant to carers, through the National Disability Advisory Council and National Family Carers Voice.

- **The National Disability Advisory Council** was set up in 1996 to create better links between government, people with disabilities and their families. It provides advice to the Minister for Family and Community Services on disability related issues and encourages consultation between the Australian Government and the disability sector.
- The **National Family Carers Voice** is an advisory body made up of family carers from across Australia who provide the Government with advice on how it can better address family carer issues. The NFCV is supported by FaCS and includes carers of people with a mental illness.