



MEDIA RELEASE

28 November 2012

Recognition and Respect: Mental Health Carers Report 2012

Recognition and Respect: Mental Health Carers Report 2012 will be officially launched today by the Hon Mark Butler, Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, Senator Jan McLucas, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers and Jackie Crowe, National Mental Health Commissioner, at Parliament House.

The report, commissioned by the Mental Health Council of Australia, provides an insight into the lives of some of the most dedicated yet vulnerable members of our community: people who regularly care for someone with a mental illness.

The National Report Card from the National Mental Health Commission released yesterday acknowledges the important role mental health carers play for those living with mental illness.

“One of the principal hopes that carers have is for recognition and respect for the important contribution that they make to the lives of the people for whom they care”, said Mental Health Council of Australia CEO, Mr Frank Quinlan.

“Carers are best placed to provide advice on appropriate solutions for consumers, but are often not properly consulted or informed. This leads to feelings of isolation and their physical and mental health can deteriorate as a result of their caring role,” said Mr Quinlan.

“This report describes carers’ perspectives on the accessibility, appropriateness and sensitivity of mental health and other services and highlights the progress made in a range of policy areas since the publication of the *Mental Health Carers Report 2010*”, he said.

Recognition and Respect: Mental Health Carers Report 2012 builds on the ground-breaking work of *Adversity to Advocacy: the lives and hopes of mental health carers* (2009) and the *Mental Health Carers Report 2010*. It is based on a survey of 508 mental health carers and describes their perspectives on the services available to them and the people for whom they care.

**Launch of *Recognition and Respect: Mental Health Carers Report 2012*
10:15 – 11am, Wednesday 28 November 2012
Committee Room 1R1, Parliament House**

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