



Queensland

Carers (Recognition) Bill 2008



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2008

A Bill

for

**An Act to provide for the recognition of carers and the
important contribution they make to the community**

The Parliament of Queensland enacts—	1
1 Short title	2
This Act may be cited as the <i>Carers (Recognition) Act 2008</i> .	3
2 Definitions	4
In this Act—	5
<i>carer</i> see section 3.	6
<i>carer’s charter</i> see section 4.	7
<i>public authority</i> means—	8
(a) a Minister; or	9
(b) a department; or	10
(c) a local government; or	11
(d) an entity established by the State or a local government.	12
<i>voluntarily</i> means in a non-contractual and unpaid capacity.	13
3 Meaning of <i>carer</i>	14
A <i>carer</i> is a person who voluntarily provides ongoing care or assistance to another person who, because of age, disability, frailty, chronic illness or pain, requires assistance with everyday tasks.	15 16 17 18
4 The <i>carer’s charter</i>	19
The <i>carer’s charter</i> is set out in the schedule.	20

5	Obligation of public sector agencies to consider carer's charter	1 2
(1)	This section applies if a public authority is to make a decision regarding the assessment, planning, delivery and review of services affecting carers.	3 4 5
(2)	The public authority must consider the carer's charter in making the decision and must consult with the representative bodies that the authority is satisfied represent the carers affected.	6 7 8 9
6	Reporting obligations	10
(1)	If, when making a decision mentioned in section 5(1), a public authority consults with a representative body under section 5(2), the decision of the authority must be in writing and include details of the consultation.	11 12 13 14
(2)	For subsection (1), the details of the consultation includes details of which representative body was consulted and any recommendations or concerns of the representative body.	15 16 17

Schedule	The Carer's charter	1
	section 4	2
1	The State recognises the effort and dedication of carers in our community and that carers provide a vital service.	3 4
2	Carers deserve the respect of our community and should be supported within their community by all levels of government, institutions and organisations.	5 6 7
3	The views and needs of carers must be taken into account together with the views, needs and best interests of the people they care for when making policy decisions.	8 9 10
4	The importance of carers' work gives carers, or their representative bodies, the right to be included in the assessment, planning, delivery and review of services affecting carers.	11 12 13 14
5	Complaints made by carers in relation to services that impact on them must be given careful consideration.	15 16
6	Carers should be recognised—	17
	(a) for their unique knowledge and experience; and	18
	(b) as individuals with their own needs.	19
7	The relationship between a carer and the person they care for should be respected and honoured.	20 21
8	Children and young people who are carers should be specifically supported by all of our community.	22 23
9	The caring responsibilities of children and young people should be minimised.	24 25
10	Carers need access to a wide range of responsive and affordable services to support them and their decision making in their role as a carer.	26 27 28
11	Remote and rurally based carers face additional difficulties caused by isolation.	29 30