



Carers (Recognition) Act 2008

Reprinted as in force on 1 July 2009

Reprint No. 1A

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Information about this reprint

This Act is reprinted as at 1 July 2009.

This page is specific to this reprint. See previous reprint for information about earlier changes made under the Reprints Act 1992. A table of reprints is included in the endnotes.

Also see endnotes for information about—

- **when provisions commenced**
- **editorial changes made in earlier reprint.**

Spelling

The spelling of certain words or phrases may be inconsistent in this reprint or with other reprints because of changes made in various editions of the Macquarie Dictionary (for example, in the dictionary, ‘lodgement’ has replaced ‘lodgment’). Variations of spelling will be updated in the next authorised reprint.

Dates shown on reprints

Reprints dated at last amendment All reprints produced on or after 1 July 2002, authorised (that is, hard copy) and unauthorised (that is, electronic), are dated as at the last date of amendment. Previously reprints were dated as at the date of publication. If an authorised reprint is dated earlier than an unauthorised version published before 1 July 2002, it means the legislation was not further amended and the reprint date is the commencement of the last amendment.

If the date of an authorised reprint is the same as the date shown for an unauthorised version previously published, it merely means that the unauthorised version was published before the authorised version. Also, any revised edition of the previously published unauthorised version will have the same date as that version.

Replacement reprint date If the date of an authorised reprint is the same as the date shown on another authorised reprint it means that one is the replacement of the other.



Queensland

Carers (Recognition) Act 2008

Contents

		Page
Part 1	Preliminary	
1	Short title	3
2	Commencement	3
3	Act binds all persons	3
4	Objects of Act	3
5	Definitions	4
6	Meaning of carer	4
7	The Queensland carers charter	4
Part 2	Decisions affecting carers	
8	Purpose and application of pt 2	5
9	Obligation of public authorities to consider carers charter	5
10	Reporting obligations	6
Part 3	Carers Advisory Council	
Division 1	Establishment and functions	
11	Establishment of Carers Advisory Council	6
12	Functions of the Carers Advisory Council	6
13	Minister may give directions	7
Division 2	Membership	
14	Membership	7
15	Chairperson and deputy chairperson	7
16	Term of appointment as member	8
17	Remuneration and allowances	8
18	Vacation of office	8
Division 3	Conduct of meetings	
19	Procedure at meetings	9
20	Presiding at meetings	9
21	Minutes	10

Contents

Part 4	Miscellaneous	
22	Regulation-making power.	10
Schedule	The Queensland carers charter	11
 Endnotes		
1	Index to endnotes.	13
2	Date to which amendments incorporated.	13
3	Key	13
4	Table of reprints	14
5	List of legislation.	14

Carers (Recognition) Act 2008

[reprinted as in force on 1 July 2009]

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

Part 1 Preliminary

1 Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Carers (Recognition) Act 2008*.

2 Commencement

This Act commences on a day to be fixed by proclamation.

3 Act binds all persons

This Act binds all persons, including the State.

4 Objects of Act

The objects of this Act are—

- (a) to recognise the valuable contribution by carers to the people they care for; and
- (b) to recognise the benefit, including the social and economic benefit, provided by carers to the community; and

[s 5]

- (c) to provide for the interests of carers to be considered in decisions about the provision of services that impact on the role of carers; and
- (d) to establish the Carers Advisory Council.

5 Definitions

In this Act—

carer see section 6.

carers charter see section 7.

council means the Carers Advisory Council established under section 11.

public authority means—

- (a) a department; or
- (b) a statutory body.

statutory body means a statutory body under the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977*, section 5.

6 Meaning of *carer*

- (1) A *carer* is an individual who provides, in a non-contractual and unpaid capacity, ongoing care or assistance to another person who, because of disability, frailty, chronic illness or pain, requires assistance with everyday tasks.
- (2) However, for the purpose of this Act, a person is not a carer—
 - (a) only because the person is the spouse, parent or guardian of a person to whom care is provided; or
 - (b) if the person provides the care or assistance as a volunteer for a voluntary organisation.

7 The Queensland carers charter

The Queensland carers charter (the *carers charter*) is set out in the schedule.

Part 2 Decisions affecting carers

8 Purpose and application of pt 2

- (1) It is Parliament's intention that this part be complied with.
- (2) However, this part is directory only and does not create rights or impose legally enforceable obligations on the State, a public authority or anyone else.
- (3) Failure to comply with this part does not affect the validity of any decision.
- (4) Subsection (5) applies to a public authority that must, under another Act or law, consider, or comply with, principles or requirements (*other considerations*) in the exercise of the authority's functions or powers.
- (5) This part does not apply to the public authority to the extent that the principles of the carers charter or requirements under this part would conflict with, or otherwise detract from, the public authority properly considering or complying with the other considerations.

9 Obligation of public authorities to consider carers charter

- (1) A public authority must ensure the authority and its officers and employees—
 - (a) have an awareness and understanding of the carers charter; and
 - (b) take action to reflect the principles of the charter in providing services of the authority which affect carers and the persons they care for.
- (2) Also, a public authority must consult with the representative bodies that the authority is satisfied represent the carers affected when making strategic policy or planning decisions relevant to carers and the persons they care for.

[s 10]

10 Reporting obligations

- (1) A public authority must prepare a report on how the authority complies with section 9.
- (2) A report required under this section must—
 - (a) include information prescribed by regulation; and
 - (b) be incorporated with the annual report of the public authority and relate to the period to which the annual report relates.
- (3) In this section—

annual report means an annual report under the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977*.

Part 3 Carers Advisory Council

Division 1 Establishment and functions

11 Establishment of Carers Advisory Council

The Carers Advisory Council is established.

12 Functions of the Carers Advisory Council

The functions of the council are to—

- (a) work to advance the interests of carers and promote compliance by public authorities with the carers charter; and
- (b) make recommendations to the Minister on enhancing compliance by public authorities with the carers charter; and

- (c) provide general advice to the Minister on matters relating to carers; and
- (d) carry out other functions as directed by the Minister.

13 Minister may give directions

- (1) The council must perform its functions subject to—
 - (a) the general direction and control of the Minister; and
 - (b) any specific written directions given to it by the Minister.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1)(b), a direction under that provision may require the council to give the Minister, or provide the Minister with access to, information in its possession about a matter or class of matter specified in the direction.
- (3) If the council is given a written direction, the council must publish the direction in its next annual report.

Division 2 Membership

14 Membership

- (1) The council consists of 10 members appointed by signed notice by the Minister.
- (2) Four members must be public service employees.
- (3) Three members must be carers.
- (4) Three members must be representatives of different carers associations.

15 Chairperson and deputy chairperson

- (1) The Minister must appoint one of the members of the council to be the chairperson.

[s 16]

- (2) The chairperson holds office for the term decided by the Minister.
- (3) However, a vacancy occurs in the office of chairperson if the person holding the office resigns the office by signed notice of resignation given to the Minister or stops being a member of the council.
- (4) The council must elect one member to be the deputy chairperson.
- (5) The deputy chairperson is to act as chairperson—
 - (a) during a vacancy in the office of chairperson; or
 - (b) during a period when the chairperson is absent from duty or, for another reason, can not perform the functions of the office.

16 Term of appointment as member

- (1) A member is to be appointed for the term, of no more than 2 years, stated in the member's instrument of appointment.
- (2) A person's eligibility for reappointment or the term for which a person may be reappointed is not affected by an earlier appointment.

17 Remuneration and allowances

- (1) This section applies to a member of the council who is not a public service employee.
- (2) The member is entitled to be paid the remuneration and allowances decided by the Minister.

18 Vacation of office

- (1) A member's office becomes vacant if—
 - (a) the member dies; or
 - (b) the member resigns by signed notice of resignation given to the Minister; or

-
- (c) the member's appointment is ended by the Minister.
- (2) The Minister may, by written notice given to a member, end the member's appointment if—
- (a) in the opinion of the Minister, the member is unable, because of illness or absence from the State, to perform the functions of the office; or
 - (b) in the opinion of the Minister, the member commits misconduct of a kind that could justify dismissal from the public service if the member were a public service officer; or
 - (c) the member is an insolvent under administration within the meaning of the Corporations Act, section 9; or
 - (d) the member is absent from 3 consecutive meetings of the council without the council's permission and without reasonable excuse; or
 - (e) in the opinion of the Minister, the member is performing the member's duties carelessly, incompetently or inefficiently.

Division 3 Conduct of meetings

19 Procedure at meetings

Subject to this part, the council may conduct its meetings as it considers appropriate.

20 Presiding at meetings

- (1) The chairperson, if present, is to preside at a meeting of the council.
- (2) If the chairperson and the deputy chairperson are absent, the member chosen by the members present is to preside.

[s 21]

21 Minutes

The council must keep a record of the minutes of its meetings and its decisions.

Part 4 Miscellaneous

22 Regulation-making power

The Governor in Council may make regulations under this Act.

Schedule The Queensland carers charter

section 7

Because—

the Parliament recognises that carers make a significant contribution to the people they care for and the economic and social wellbeing of the community, and that carers deserve recognition, respect and support for their role as carers; and

helping carers is one of the best ways of helping someone they are caring for and the carers charter will help carers to be heard by government and their issues to be better understood in the community;

this Act establishes the following Queensland carers charter—

- 1 The State recognises the effort and dedication of carers in our community and that carers provide a vital service.
- 2 Carers deserve the respect of our community and should be supported within their community by all levels of government, institutions and organisations.
- 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.
- 4 The importance of carers' work means the role of carers should be recognised by including carers, or their representative bodies, in the assessment, planning, delivery and review of services affecting carers.
- 5 Complaints made by carers in relation to services that impact on them must be given careful consideration.
- 6 Carers should be recognised—
 - (a) for their unique knowledge and experience; and
 - (b) as individuals with their own needs.

Schedule

- 7 The relationship between a carer and the person they care for should be respected and honoured.
- 8 Children and young people who are carers should be specifically supported by all of our community.
- 9 The caring responsibilities of children and young people should be minimised.
- 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.
- 11 Remote and rurally based carers face additional difficulties caused by isolation.

Endnotes

1 Index to endnotes

	Page
2 Date to which amendments incorporated	13
3 Key	13
4 Table of reprints	14
5 List of legislation	14

2 Date to which amendments incorporated

This is the reprint date mentioned in the Reprints Act 1992, section 5(c). However, no amendments have commenced operation on or before that day. Future amendments of the Carers (Recognition) Act 2008 may be made in accordance with this reprint under the Reprints Act 1992, section 49.

3 Key

Key to abbreviations in list of legislation and annotations

Key	Explanation	Key	Explanation
AIA	= Acts Interpretation Act 1954	(prev)	= previously
amd	= amended	proc	= proclamation
amdt	= amendment	prov	= provision
ch	= chapter	pt	= part
def	= definition	pubd	= published
div	= division	R[X]	= Reprint No. [X]
exp	= expires/expired	RA	= Reprints Act 1992
gaz	= gazette	reloc	= relocated
hdg	= heading	renum	= renumbered
ins	= inserted	rep	= repealed
lap	= lapsed	(retro)	= retrospectively
notfd	= notified	rv	= revised edition
num	= numbered	s	= section
o in c	= order in council	sch	= schedule
om	= omitted	sdiv	= subdivision
orig	= original	SIA	= Statutory Instruments Act 1992
p	= page	SIR	= Statutory Instruments Regulation 2002
para	= paragraph	SL	= subordinate legislation
prec	= preceding	sub	= substituted
pres	= present	unnum	= unnumbered
prev	= previous		

4 Table of reprints

Reprints are issued for both future and past effective dates. For the most up-to-date table of reprints, see the reprint with the latest effective date.

If a reprint number includes a letter of the alphabet, the reprint was released in unauthorised, electronic form only.

Reprint No.	Amendments included	Effective	Notes
1	none	4 May 2009	
1A	—	1 July 2009	s 10 commenced

5 List of legislation

Carers (Recognition) Act 2008 No. 70

date of assent 11 December 2008

ss 1–2 commenced on date of assent

s 10 commenced 1 July 2009 (2009 SL No. 47)

remaining provisions commenced 4 May 2009 (2009 SL No. 47)