

# Interchange Respite Care (NSW) Inc.

*Leading, Supporting and Enhancing Respite and Social Support Service Provision across NSW*

July 2010

## Carer's Profile of the Ideal Support Worker

Dear Carer,

Your Respite/Social Support provider is a member of Interchange Respite Care NSW and has provided you with this survey on our behalf.

**Interchange Respite Care NSW** is the peak body for organisations which provide respite care and/or social support to families caring for a person with a disability or a family member who is frail aged. Our role is to support these organisations in delivering quality care to families and individuals. We do this by providing member organisations with a range of services, including information, resource support, training, networking, advocacy and representation to Government and funding bodies. Interchange Respite Care NSW represents more than one hundred respite care and social support providers across NSW. Many of these are in the disability sector. We understand and reflect the practices and philosophies of these service providers.

Part of our role as an industry peak representative body, is to undertake research work on issues relating to respite care and/or social support.

### **Previous Research**

In 2007 we undertook a piece of research on *Unmet Needs Impacting on Respite Care* of which 430 families from our member organisations took part in this survey based research. Since 2006, we have also convened numerous Carer & Stakeholder Respite Forums around the state which have identified numerous issues relevant & impacting on carers & families, and that have been fed back to Commonwealth & State governments.

### **Current Research**

Our next piece of work is to undertake research into the *Carer's Profile of the Ideal Support Worker*. The purpose of this research is to get a clearer picture of the skills and attributes of Support Workers, which Carers and Care Recipients **value most**. This information will assist our industry to identify the priority skills we need to promote & advocate for competency enhancement within the industry. This will then assist member organisations to better meet the needs of their client group.

### **How Will This Happen?**

To begin, we would like to survey Carers currently receiving services from our member agencies. A copy of the survey is attached to this letter. It can be completed on paper and returned directly to Interchange Respite Care NSW, or alternately, downloaded from our website in a Word or PDF format at [www.interchangensw.com.au](http://www.interchangensw.com.au) completed and either emailed or mailed back.

At this time, we anticipate that the initial survey process will be completed by October 2010. The research result paper will then be circulated to all our members, survey respondents and to relevant Commonwealth and State Ministers and presented at our National Conference in 2011.

We appreciate your support in completing and returning the attached survey.

Yours thankfully

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Executive Officer.



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