

## DID YOU KNOW...

Family Tax Benefit paid by the Australian Government was 17.25 billion in 2009

- This equals \$3,655 per child per year
- There are 4.65 million children under 18 in Australia.

Childcare costs paid by the Australian Government was 2.10 billion in 2007

Child Care Tax Rebate paid by the Australian Government was 1.185 billion in 2009

The Australian Government's expenditure on the baby bonus 1.45 billion in 2008/09

The Australian Government's expenditure on aged care places in 2008/09 was \$9.1 billion.

The Australian Government funds more than 220,000 aged care places.

The Australian Government expenditure on aged community care in 2009 was 2.17 billion – this does not include the states contribution.

### Now we come to disability services

The Australian Government expenditure on disability services was 856 million in 2008 for all services.

This is just \$1,222 per head, \$21.00 each person per week or \$3.00 per day per head.

- *There are 700,000 people eligible for these services*
- *The Australian government collects 82% of all tax revenue*

Specialist services can be categorised broadly as accommodation support, community support, community access and respite.

The tax revenue poor States (they collect just 18% of taxes) pay 75% of disability services costs. There are currently only slightly over 20,000 accommodation 'places' nationally.

NSW had the lowest proportion of the eligible population accessing disability support services. NSW only had 14.6 per cent of the **eligible** population receiving services compared to the national average of 20%

Disability related expenses are not tax deductible yet the costs of raising children are deductible for less necessary things...

Mental illness affects millions of Australians yet the current spend is just 6.7% of the health expenditure when it should be 12%.

Currently, there are 12.1 psychiatrists per 100,000 of the population in Australia, but only three psychiatrists per 100,000 Australians are in training so we are headed for disaster.

*How fair is that Australia?*

Dear Carers Alliance Members and supporters,

This election Carers Alliance is standing Senate candidates in five states, with three House of Representatives candidates in NSW. We desperately need your support. We want to make this election the election when people living with disability and their families have a voice where it counts. Visit our website at <http://www.carers.org.au/>

We are sure you understand that time, like money is not something we have a lot of and we do the best we can with what little we have. We would be grateful for volunteers to help hand out how-to-vote material in your area. If you have friends or family willing to help we would appreciate you passing this onto them. If you can help please contact;

**National Coordinator** Maree Buckwalter - mobile: 0425 280 376 or email [mjbuck@inet.com.au](mailto:mjbuck@inet.com.au)  
*Or*

### New South Wales

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**NSW -Wentworth** -Stuart Neal – Ph 02)9340 7616 or email [StuartN@allenandunwin.com](mailto:StuartN@allenandunwin.com)  
**NSW -Macquarie** -Terry Tremethick –Ph) 4729 0852 or email [terry@tremethick.org](mailto:terry@tremethick.org)  
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**Sth Australia – Senate** - Garry Connor - Mobile 0401 235 012 email [cgconnor@bigpond.com](mailto:cgconnor@bigpond.com)

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Our deepest gratitude for your support, we hope to at least let the politicians know that we will eventually prevail. Please pass this through your networks as we cannot do this alone.

Warm Regards

*MaryLou Carter*

**Party Secretary**

**Carers Alliance** - <http://www.carers.org.au>

## Fact list

### We live in a wonderful country but we have been let down by successive governments!

- Carers must provide 143 hours minimum care per week in order to collect the \$1.91 per hour carers payment.
- If a carer works or studies or volunteers or any of these things combined over 25 hrs per week - and this includes travel time, the carer is terminated from the carer payment as ineligible - even if they have made less in income than the payment.
- There are no tax offsets if a carer cannot leave the person they care for while they work and must pay for the cost of care in order to do so.
- A carer on a middle income paying for care of an adult can end up earning as little or less than the carers payment after costs associated with care.
- The carers payment is taxable if caring for a parent over the age of 65.
- Families cannot offset the cost of equipment caring for a child or adult with disability. **(see treasurers response)** page 2 and 3.
- A carer pays 25% of their untaxed income for public housing with no allowances for the cost of care needed to earn that income.
- In 2009 the Australian government spent 1.938 billion on carers payment.
- In 2009 the Australian government spent 1.801 billion on carers allowance.
- In 2009 it was estimated that unpaid care saved the economy more than **33 billion**.
- In Australia a person with a disability has no rights to services until they are 65 years of age which means their carer (usually mother) has no right to help until they are over 80, no matter how severe the disability.
- Australia has parent carers begging for help who are still caring for severely disabled sons and daughters into their 80's and 90's.
- An elderly parent carer can be accessing services for their own age related disabilities while being expected to provide all care to severely disabled middle aged sons and daughters.