WELCOME TO THE NATIONAL CARER AWARDS

Australia's dedicated carers perform a significant and highly-valued role in our community. There are over 2.6 million carers in Australia, of which over 770,000 are primary carers, who often provide 24-hour support to someone in need. In addition, there are over 9,000 foster carers and thousands more people who care for a child who is related to them, known as kinship carers.

The National Carer Awards has been developed to publicly recognise and celebrate carers who go “above and beyond” in providing care to some of Australia’s most vulnerable people.

The inaugural National Carer Awards has been developed by Life Without Barriers, Carers Australia and Families Australia with the generous support of our corporate partners.

You can help us celebrate and acknowledge our appreciation for the significant contribution that carers make to the Australian community. If you know a carer who is making an exceptional contribution to the person or people they support, please nominate them for a National Carer Award 2014.
ABOUT THE NATIONAL CARER AWARDS 2014

The National Carer Awards 2014 celebrate and reward outstanding carers across Australia.

There are four categories in the National Carer Awards 2014:

1. **Young carers** who are aged under 26 years (no older than 25 years on 16th November 2014) and are the primary carer for another person.

2. **Foster and kinship carers** who hold approval to provide care to children and young people in out-of-home care.

   Foster care is a form of out-of-home care where the caregiver is authorised and reimbursed (or was offered but declined reimbursement) by the state/territory for the care of the child. (This category excludes relatives/kin who are reimbursed). There are varying degrees of reimbursement made to foster carers.

   Kinship care may or may not be relatives who provide the daily care and supervision of children and young people unable to live with their own family. Kinship carers may be in a formal or informal arrangement but must prove that they have full-time care (in a temporary or permanent capacity) for children or young people.

3. **Carers of an older Australian** who assist older Australians to live a fulfilling, engaging and independent life.

4. **Carers of a person with a disability** who strive to achieve positive outcomes for the person they care for, enabling them to enjoy life to their fullest.

THE AWARDS

The top three finalists for each of the four categories will be announced and celebrated at an event in their State/Territory.

Each of the State and Territory winners will then be invited to the National Carer Awards 2014 dinner on the Gold Coast, where the National winner for each category will be announced. The national winner in each of the four award categories will be awarded a prize to be determined by the National Carer Awards partner organisations. Details of such prizes will be publicly available on the dedicated National Carer Awards website from 1 October 2014.
WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE AWARDS?

The winner will be chosen from each of the four categories of carer: foster and kinship carer; carer of older Australian; carer of people with a disability; and young carer aged 25 and under.

Eligible nominees must be full-time carers in an unpaid capacity looking after a family member or friend who requires long-term support in the above categories.

Carers in paid employment for their caring role are excluded from nominations.

WHO CAN NOMINATE?

Nominations can be made by anyone who knows a young carer, foster and kinship carer, carer of older Australians and carer of people with disability. Nominations from teachers, doctors, social workers, child care workers, community service agencies, carers and self-nominations are encouraged.

Community members, agency staff, family and friends are also welcome to submit nominations.

Nominations must be made by Australian residents aged 18 years and over.

Any person involved in the administration and judging of the National Carer Awards 2014 are ineligible to be nominated for the awards, as are any members of their immediate family.

HOW TO NOMINATE

Nominations may be made via the online nomination form on the National Carers Awards 2014 website www.carerawards.com.au or may be posted to National Carer Awards – Life Without Barriers 352 King Street, Newcastle, NSW 2300

Applications must be received by the Awards organisers by 11.59pm (EST) on Sunday 21 September 2014 at the latest.

Nominations will be judged based on the selection criteria:

• providing exceptional care to meet the practical, physical, social, cultural and emotional needs of the people they support
• offering support and guidance to the people they support, even when faced with adversity
• delivering support that is in the best interests of the people they support.

Please use specific examples as much as possible.
IMPORTANT INFORMATION
The important dates for the National Carer Awards 2014 are as follows:

1. On Monday 18 August 2014 the call for nominations will be launched on the Life Without Barriers website and through a media release on the website address.

2. An independent judging panel comprising of sector specialists, ambassadors and sponsor representatives will convene after 21 September 2014 to assess the nominations and select three finalists for each category from each Australian state and territory.

3. In late September 2014 morning teas will be held in each state and territory to celebrate the achievements of the nominated carers. Sponsors and dignitaries will have the opportunity to meet semi-finalists in person at the morning teas, where the state and territory winners will be announced in four categories – young carer, foster and kinship carer, carers of older Australians and carers of people with disability – who will go on as finalists at the national awards.

4. The awards ceremony will be held on Sunday 16 November 2014 at the Gold Coast. Each of the winners from each state and territory and their nominators will be flown to the Gold Coast for the awards ceremony on Sunday 16 November 2014.

5. The national winner in each of the four award categories will be awarded a prize to be determined by the National Carer Awards partner Organisations. Details of such prizes will be publicly available on the dedicated National Carer Awards website from 1 October 2014.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY
For full terms and conditions, please go to www.carerawards.com.au

PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY
Please note that information provided in this nomination form may be used or disclosed to other bodies as is necessary for the purpose of the National Carer Awards 2014 process, or for publication in relation to the successful nominees.

For further information about the Life Without Barriers privacy guidelines please visit www.lwb.org.au or email privacyofficer@lwb.org.au
NOMINATION FORM

NOMINATOR INFORMATION
Name of nominator

Address

Home number
Mobile number (optional)
Email address

ABOUT THE CARER
Name of nominee (If the carer is under 18, please also name the legal guardian and submit their contact details, rather than those of the under 18 year old)
Name of carer
Guardian name (if required)
Date of birth
Address
Home number
Mobile number (optional)
Email address

TYPE OF CARER (only tick 1 type per nomination)
☐ foster/kinship carer
☐ carer of older Australian
☐ carer for someone with a disability
☐ young carer (under 26 years at 16th November 2014)

TELL US ABOUT THE PERSON/PEOPLE THIS CARER SUPPORTS
How do they know each other?

What support does the carer provide?

How long has the carer been supporting this person/people?

How does the carer provide exceptional care to meet the physical, social, cultural and/or emotional needs of the person/people they support?

HOW WOULD YOU BEST DESCRIBE THE CARER?
Are they calm? Are they full of energy? Always optimistic?

TELL US IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHY YOU THINK THE NOMINEE SHOULD BE RECOGNISED AS AN OUTSTANDING CARER?

For your nomination to be complete please include a photograph of the nominated carer.
Email to carerawards@lwb.org.au or send to Life Without Barriers – PO Box 2226 Dangar NSW 2309
REFEREE DETAILS

Please fill out the information of a referee who has known the carer for at least two years. This referee should not be related to or living with the carer you are nominating, but can be anyone from the community, whether a colleague, teacher, a neighbour or member of the community, member of medical staff or social support agency staff who knows the carer and the person they support.

Name of referee

How the referee knows the carer

Address

Home number

Mobile number (optional)

Email address

☐ Please tick to confirm that the referee consents to being contacted by the National Carer Awards organisers for reference checks.

CONSENT INFORMATION

I confirm that

is a full-time, primary carer and is not paid for their caring role (they may receive a carer allowance, carer payment or foster carer reimbursements)

I consent to the National Carer Awards organisers contacting (or their guardian if under 18) and understand that both the nominator and nominee must provide their consent for to participate in media to promote the Awards program. This includes photographs and information about nominees and nominators.

FOR FOSTER CARER NOMINATIONS ONLY

I confirm that

is a registered foster carer.

The agency they are currently registered with is:

☐ I agree to the Terms and Conditions of the National Carer Awards 2014 program.

NOMINATION CHECKLIST

• Have you completed all contact information for the nominator, nominee and referee?
• Have you provided information about the carer in all sections?
• Have you attached a photo of the nominee?
• Have you ticked to confirm that the information is true and correct?
• Have you confirmed the carer is a primary, full-time and unpaid carer, and you consent to the Awards organisers contacting all listed parties?
• Have you read the Terms and Conditions?
• Have you submitted the above by the closing date of 21 September 2014?

Thank you for nominating a carer in the National Carer Awards 2014, we will be in touch if the nominee has been selected as a State/Territory finalist.

www.carerawards.com.au