

Information for Health Professionals Quick Facts

If a patient has come to you requesting that you sign a Carer Card application form, please read below for a quick overview of the program.

- Eligible carers are unpaid primary carers, foster and respite carers and kinship carers
- Carers applying for a Carer Card must complete a Carer Application Form and establish their eligibility in one of the following 3 ways:
 - Provide their Centrelink Reference Number (CRN) if they receive Centrelink Carer Payment or Carer Allowance, or
 - Provide their Department of Human Services (DHS) payment advice, if they are a DHS foster or respite carer, or
 - Have a health professional sign their Application Form
- Doctors and other Health Professionals who are requested to sign a Carer Card application form need to indicate whether the applicant should receive a long term (5 year) or short term (1 year) Carer Card – depending on the expected duration the Carer will be in a caring role
- Health Professionals who are unsure about whether they should sign an application form, or who have any questions about the program can call the Carer Card Information Line on 1800 901 958 (during business hours).

When should a Medical Practitioner or Health Professional sign a Carer Card Application Form?

If you are satisfied that the applicant is the primary, unpaid carer of a person with a disability, a severe medical condition, or a mental illness*, or who is frail aged or who is in need of palliative care or who is kinship carer**.

To be a primary carer, the carer must be providing substantial support and assistance on a frequent*** basis with activities such as:

- Personal care (dressing, feeding, bathing)
- Everyday household tasks
- Transport (public or private)
- Mobility
- Making and attending appointments for care recipient
- Monitoring medication
- Communication (eg. Making telephone calls on the care recipients behalf)
- Monitoring/Supervision
- Emotional support

*For mental health carers, the mental illness of the care recipient may be episodic rather than ongoing. It is understood and acknowledged that the caring duties of these carers, do not necessarily stop during periods of stable mental health.

** Kinship carers can provide evidence of their role as primary carers of children by producing their statutory declaration issued by the Office of the Child Safety Commissioner or a relevant court order (i.e. either from the Family or Children's Courts)

*** It is expected that some form of support, care or assistance is provided by the primary carer on a daily basis, or several times per week as a minimum.