

Domestic and Family Violence Legislation – a carer’s perspective

Toni Cannon – Queensland Council of Carers

The Queensland Council of Carers

- Commonwealth Carer Resource Centre
 - 1800 242 636.
 - Information
 - Resources
 - Emotional Support
- Community Development
 - Carer Support Groups
 - Education
 - Carer & Community
 - Individual advocacy
- Policy and Research– Systems advocacy

Carer

- A carer provides support and assistance to a relative, friend or neighbour who is frail aged, chronically or terminally ill, has a mental illness or a disability.
- There are 413, 500 carers in Queensland (approx. 12% of the pop. or 1 in 8 people)

The New Legislation

- Carers can be perpetrators or victims of Domestic Violence.
- Acknowledges the unique nature of the informal care relationship beyond family and spousal relationships (such as parent, partner, son or daughter).

Issues in care Relationships

- Inherent dependency
- Issue of intent (‘wilful’) – on behalf of both the carer and care recipient
- The role of gender in abuse in informal care

Working Together

- Reduce carer stress
- Information and Support – especially respite. The Commonwealth Carer Respite Centre
 - 1800 059 059•Education and Training for carers
- Counselling from the 1st July through the Commonwealth Carer Resource Centre
 - 1800 242 636.

Working with other major stakeholders.