



## CHRISTMAS FROM OUR

# CEO

As we gather to celebrate this festive season, I am filled with immense gratitude and pride for all that we have achieved together in the past year. 2023 has been another incredibly busy and successful year for us, and I want to take a moment to reflect on our accomplishments, express my heartfelt thanks, and extend warm holiday wishes to all.

First and foremost, I want to acknowledge and comment our dedicated and hardworking staff. Your unwavering commitment to the mission of Carers NT has been nothing short of remarkable. Throughout the year, you have demonstrated exceptional resilience, compassion, and professionalism in the face of numerous challenges. Whether it was providing vital support to carers, delivering essential services to our clients, or collaborating on innovative initiatives, your efforts have been truly outstanding. Carers NT's success is a direct result of your dedication, and I am profoundly grateful for your contributions.

I also want to express my appreciation to our esteemed board members. Your guidance, vision, and unwavering support have been instrumental in shaping the future of Carers NT. Your commitment to our cause and your tireless efforts to ensure our organisation thrives have been invaluable. Together, we have achieved remarkable progress, and I look forward to continuing our journey together in the years to come.

As we approach the end of this year and anticipate the dawn of a new one, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to all carers, clients, and their families. May this Christmas bring you joy, love, and cherished moments with your loved ones. Let us also enter the new year, 2024, with hope, optimism, and a shared commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of carers and those they care for.

In closing, I am immensely proud of what we have accomplished together in 2023. Let us carry the spirit of unity, compassion, and dedication forward into the coming year, as we continue to support carers and their invaluable contributions to our community. On behalf of Carers NT Ltd, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe, prosperous, and joyful New Year. And please remember, be kind to others but also be kind to yourself.

### Steve Vitone CEO















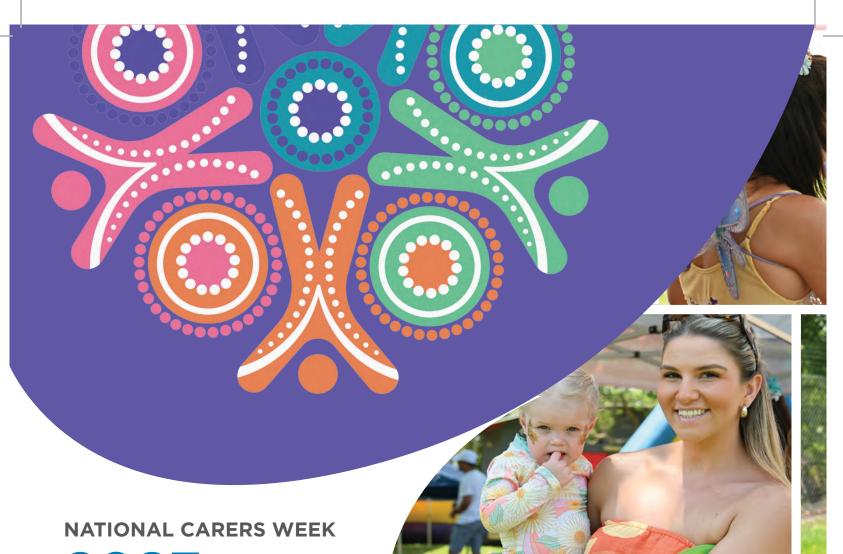
### **HOWARD SPRINGS**

Marking a Milestone in Community
Development, Carers NT's Howard Springs
facility was officially opened on 29
November 2023, at 10:40 am. The
Honourable Hugh Heggie PSM and Ms Ruth
Eirwen Jones graced the occasion with their
presence. His Honour and our esteemed
Chairperson, Gail Marsh unveiled the plaque,
symbolising the official inauguration of the
facility in the presence of dignitaries,
stakeholders, valued clients, and our
dedicated staff.

Carer's NT's Chairperson took the opportunity to shed light on the purpose and future plans for the newly launched facility. She emphasised the organisation's dedication to expanding its services across Darwin and rural areas. His Honour, Hugh Heggie, expressed his appreciation for the invaluable services provided by Carers NT to the community. His Honour highlighted the pivotal role of Carers NT extending its services into the rural area, ensuring better access to the supports people need.

In the event, one of our valued carers, Robyn Hempel has graciously shared about her caring journey and personal experience with Carers NT. Her testimony highlighted the impact of our services on her life, and her gratitude resonated with the audience.

The Howard Springs Facility will serve as a day respite for aged care clients, providing a supportive environment where they can engage in activities and receive personalized care. Additionally, it will function as a short-term respite for NDIS participants, ensuring that our services cater to the diverse needs of those we care for. The facility represents a commitment to community well-being, and we are confident that it will play a crucial role in enhancing the quality of life for individuals in the region.



2023

Carers NT has once again demonstrated its commitment to recognizing and appreciating the vital contributions of carers through a series of events that marked the National Carers Week celebrations. The diverse range of activities held across multiple locations aimed not only to celebrate carers but also to raise awareness about the crucial services provided by Carers NT.

#### **Family Fun Day**

The pinnacle of the celebrations was undoubtedly the Family Fun Day, held simultaneously in Darwin, Katherine, Alice Springs, and Nhulunbuy on October 15, 2023. This vibrant event not only served as a joyous celebration of carers but also as an opportunity to showcase Carers NT services within the community. The day was packed with exciting activities, including sausage sizzle, Jumping Castle, and enchanting Fairy Jill. The multi-location approach ensured a widespread community reach, fostering engagement and awareness.

NT News and Territory FM 104.1 Radio covered the Darwin festivities with the radio featuring Carers NT services with pre-recorded interviews, live broadcasts, and continuous promotions. In Nhulunbuy, Gove FM 8EAR Community Radio promoted the event. The NT News, along with social media channels like Facebook and Instagram, and the Carers NT website, also collectively contributed to reaching a broader audience.





























#### **NATIONAL CARERS WEEK 2023**

## LUNCHEON

Carers NT continued the celebrations with Carers Luncheons in Darwin and Alice Springs on October 16 and 18, respectively. These gatherings provided a platform for carers to share their experiences, fostering a sense of community among these dedicated individuals. The Darwin luncheon witnessed 46 carers in attendance, while Alice Springs hosted 24 attendees. Additionally, a morning tea was organized for all carers in Ramingining, further recognizing the commitment of carers across diverse communities.

Carers NT has hosted a special workshop, 'Surviving to Thriving,' in collaboration with YouthworX NT on October 14 and 15, attracting approximately 20 carers. Carers NT also extended appreciation by providing vouchers worth \$300 to four organizations, including Dementia Australia, Wagait Shire Council, Kentish Lifelong Learning and Care, and ARRCS Terrace Garden. These organizations, in turn, organized Morning Tea events to acknowledge and celebrate the significant contributions of carers.

The success of the National Carers Day celebrations organized by Carers NT is evident in the widespread community participations. The events catered to diverse preferences, ensuring engagement from various segments of the community. The luncheons and morning tea initiatives added a personal touch, genuinely recognizing and thanking carers for their dedication. As we reflect on the success of this initiative, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all carers for their invaluable contributions and reaffirm our commitment to supporting and celebrating them throughout the year.









# PALM SCHEME

In the landscapes of Nhulunbuy, The Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) is proving to be a crucial solution to the shortage of quality support workers at Supported Independent Living (SIL) facilities in the region.

The PALM scheme with Carers NT is more than just a migration program; it's a transformative opportunity for individuals seeking personal and professional growth. As participants join the program, they not only fill critical gaps in the local workforce but also embark on a journey of skill development, income generation, and cross-cultural experiences while supporting their families back home.

One of the outstanding features of PALM scheme is its commitment to the holistic development of its participants. Currently, five PALM workers are benefiting from Carers NT's support to pursue a fully funded Certificate III in Individual Support. This investment in education not only enhances the skills of the workers but also contributes to the overall quality of care provided at SIL facilities.

On 27 October 2023, Carers NT welcomed three new PALM scheme participants from Timor Leste - Julio Soares Gomes, Claretia Auxiliadora Vemorida, and Jenia Soares De Fatima Maia. Their journey began with a week in Darwin, where they underwent essential training, familiarized themselves with legislative and compliance requirements, and indulged in the sights and sounds of the city.

The induction week was a blend of professional development and cultural enrichment. The trio not only gained practical skills for their roles but also explored the diverse landscapes and experiences Darwin has to offer. This ensures that PALM workers are not only well-prepared for their jobs but also feel welcomed and integrated into the community.

Following the intensive week in Darwin, Kylie Coon, one of Carers NT's dedicated HR officers, accompanied Julio, Claretia, and Jenia to Nhulunbuy. This hands-on support helps PALM workers for a seamless transition into their new homes and roles, fostering a sense of belonging and community right from the start.

As these PALM workers settle into Nhulunbuy, Carers NT expresses gratitude for their dedication and compassion. The kind and caring support they provide to NDIS participants is invaluable, contributing to the overall well-being of the community.

To all PALM workers in Nhulunbuy, may your time be filled with happiness and success. Your commitment to making a difference in the lives of others is truly commendable, and we extend our heartfelt thanks for the positive impact you bring to the community. Together, through initiatives like the PALM scheme, we continue to bridge gaps and create a more inclusive and supportive environment for everyone.

VISUAL JOURNEY OF

# OUTREACH SERVICES







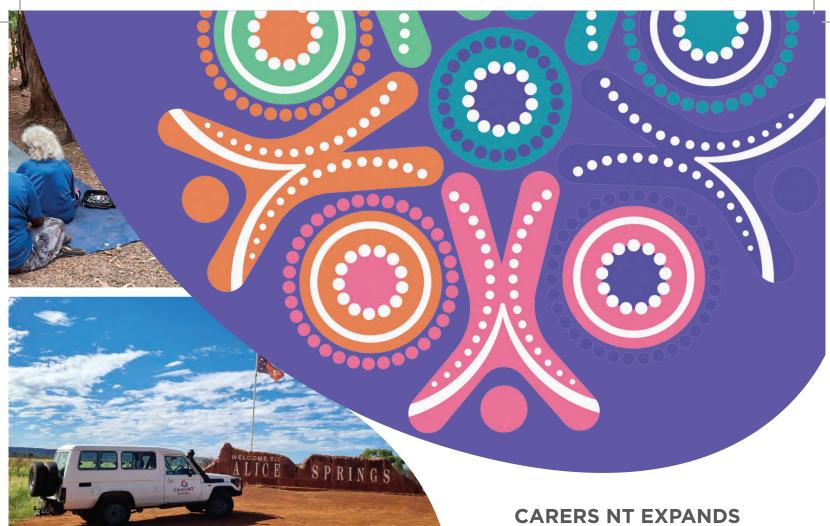












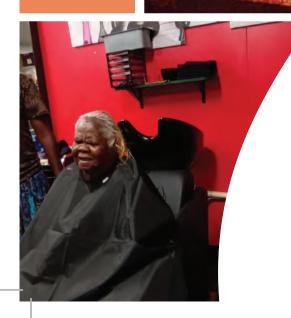
CARERS NT EXPANDS REACH & SUPPORT IN

# ALICE SPRINGS

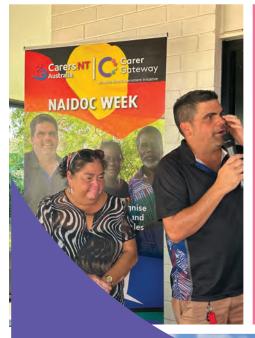
In a promising development for the Alice Springs community, Carers NT welcomes the arrival of the Troopy, a key addition that will enable outreach to more remote areas starting next year. This initiative aims to bring crucial support and services directly to carers in the remote regions.

The success of this year's Carers Week luncheons in Alice Springs was remarkable, with community members turning out in force. In 2024, we plan to organize regular workshops for our carers in Alice Springs.

The convergence of these positive developments reflects Carers NT's commitment to reaching, supporting, and uplifting the Alice Springs community on multiple fronts. With the Troopy hitting the roads and workshops becoming community staples, the future looks bright for both carers and the community they call home.









#### **WULAGI AGED CARE CENTRE**

## **NAIDOC WEEK**

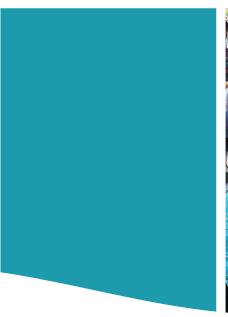
The NAIDOC Week celebration at the Wulagi Wellbeing Centre was a joyous and meaningful event that honoured and recognised the culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The event brought together community members, clients, staff, and special guests for a day of joy, celebration and cultural activities.

The event commenced with a heartfelt Welcome to Country delivered by Jeanneen Mclennan, who graciously acknowledged the traditional owners of the land and created a warm and inclusive atmosphere for the gathering. The presence of Jeanneen Mclennan added a significant cultural element to the event.











The celebration continued with an enthralling dance performance by the talented Tiwi ladies. Their traditional dance showcased their rich cultural heritage, captivating the audience and fostering a deep appreciation for the Indigenous traditions and artistry.

Throughout the event, attendees were immersed in a range of activities and experiences that aimed to promote cultural understanding and enjoyment. People had the opportunity to socialize, forge new connections, and learn about the diverse traditions, customs, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

A delicious BBQ lunch was provided, offering a variety of traditional and contemporary dishes. The attendees savoured the flavours and shared stories over their meals, fostering a sense of community and togetherness. Special mention should be made of the delightful and visually appealing cupcakes that added a sweet touch to the celebration.

The success of the NAIDOC Week celebration would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the organizing team and staff members.

Their relentless efforts in planning, coordinating, and executing the event ensured a seamless and enjoyable experience for everyone involved. Their commitment to making every event special was evident throughout the celebration.

The NAIDOC Week celebration at the Wulagi Wellbeing Centre was a remarkable event that brought people together to celebrate and recognize the rich culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The warm Welcome to Country, dance performance, engaging activities, and delicious food created an atmosphere of inclusivity and appreciation.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of the event, including Jeanneen Mclennan, the Tiwi ladies, clients, staff, and volunteers. The celebration served as a powerful reminder of the importance of cultural diversity, fostering a sense of unity and respect among all attendees.











# YOUNG CARERS

The Young Carer Program aims to provide support and respite to individuals up to the age of 25 who take care of a friend or family member. We aim to facilitate connections with their peers and to foster a sense of support and understanding to young carers. Through various programs and activities, the program endeavours to offer young carers a break from their caregiving responsibilities and engage them in enjoyable and rejuvenating experiences.

Among the opportunities that bestowed upon our young carers, the unique one was their chance to experience the First Nations Studio to create a captivating video titled as "Share Your Dreams." The video captured beautiful moments of young ones as they shared their dreams, stories and caregiving journeys. Expressing gratitude for the invaluable support from Carers NT and the Carer Gateway's "Young Carers" program, many participants conveyed that this initiative has made a real difference in their life.

Some of the other major events organised during the tenure were Ice-Skating, Bowling and the Mini Golf Day. A program called 'Be Active, Stay Active' was organised during the school holidays providing them an opportunity to engage in new and exciting experience. All young carers were invited for a fun day with Ice Skating and Bowling at Kingpin. It was great to see the joy and enthusiasm on the faces of the young carers.



Some clients experienced Ice Skating for the first time, making it exciting and special for them. Everyone enjoyed their time at Kingpin where a range of activities were available, including bowling, laser tag, and other games. The event helped people to create a bond with their peers.

A Mini Golf Day was organised during the holidays and attendees were encouraged to bring their parents or peers. Playing mini golf together fostered a sense of belongingness and allowed clients to build connection with others who share similar experiences; raffle was also organised to create excitement and to offer a chance to win prizes.

Young carers also embarked on unforgettable day trips, venturing beyond the world of their caregiving responsibilities to explore the enriching landscapes of Jumping Crocodile Cruise, museums, and art galleries with their peers. These excursions provided a break from their daily routines, offering a unique blend of education and recreation.

These day trips not only offered respite but also served as a testament to the holistic support provided by programs like the Young Carers initiative, recognizing the importance of nurturing the well-being and personal growth of young individuals.

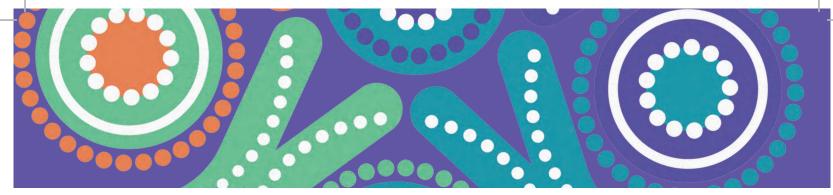
Carers NT is grateful to the amazing team for their hard work and unwavering commitment in supporting young carers and organizing these activities. Their efforts behind the scenes ensure that each event is well-coordinated and provides a positive experience for the young carers involved. The program looks forward to organizing more events in the future to continue supporting and uplifting young carers in their caregiving journey.



















# DARWIN SHOW

Carers NT has showcased an impactful presence at the recent Darwin Show Day event held from 27 – 29 July 2023 in Northern Territory. The three-day event proved to be a platform for us to connect with a diverse audience and raise awareness about our mission, services, and commitment to improving the lives of carers.

It was amazing to see the number of visitors who were eager to learn about our services and support for carers. The interactions and connections made during the event demonstrated the increase in individuals seeking support from the organisation and the stall has showcased the organisation's comprehensive range of services and support.

The team's enthusiastic and passionate efforts resulted in successful engagement with visitors, leaving a lasting impression on both existing and potential clients. Every attendee was warmly welcomed to the stall, where the team took the opportunity to provide comprehensive information about the organization's wide array of services and support systems tailored for caregivers.

The stall has not only attracted adults but also young carers and this dynamic shift displayed the team's ability to resonate with different age groups within the community. The participation of young carers and their friends demonstrated Carers NT's growing influence and recognition among young carers. Many of our existing clients who visited the stall expressed their appreciation and gratitude to the organisation's commitment to carers.

Through enthusiastic engagement, informative outreach, and genuine connections, the team made a significant impact on visitors and many visitors gained insight into the services and supports offered by Carers NT. The event has laid a solid foundation for future engagement, ensuring that our supports and services will be extended to the caregiving community. As Carers NT continues to expand its reach and influence, its mission to support and uplift caregivers remains steadfast, ensuring a brighter future for those who selflessly care for others.









# GOLF DAY

The 10th Darwin Annual Charity Golf Day and 3rd Nhulunbuy Golf Day were memorable events filled with sportsmanship, fun, and a shared commitment to making a positive difference in our community.

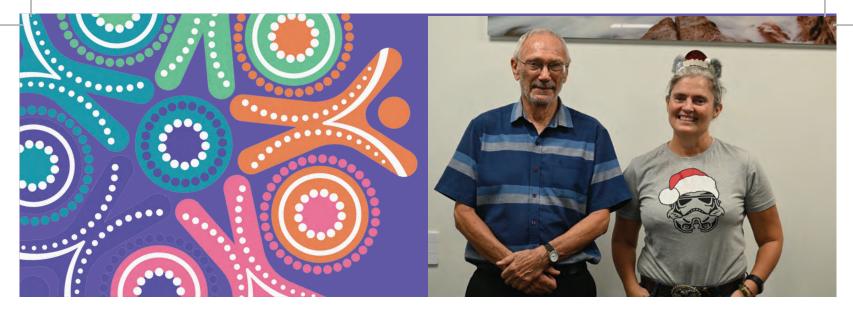
We express our gratitude to all the participants, sponsors, and donors who contributed to the success of the event.

The funds raised will have a lasting impact on the lives of carers, providing them with much-needed support.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back next year for an even more remarkable event, as we continue to work together for the betterment of our community.

A big shout out to our generous sponsors:

- Paywise (Platinum)
- Gallagher (Platinum)
- Bridge Toyota Darwin & Palmerston (Hole in One)
- Area9 IT Solutions (Gold)
- Bendigo Community Bank Nightcliff (Silver)
- Coccoon SDA Care (Silver)
- Great Northern Air-conditioning & Mechanical Services (Silver)
- Darwin Port Operations (Registered carers team sponsor)



## COUNSELLING SERVICE

In the realm of emotional support, counselling stands out as a non-judgmental space where individuals can embark on a transformative journey toward insight and healing. Despite its potential benefits, many people are hesitant to seek counselling due to concerns about judgment and confidentiality. At Carers NT, we strive to address them by offering various counselling methods, including face-to-face sessions, telephonic, and online services that allows carers to choose the method that aligns best with their comfort and convenience. We also prioritize the confidentiality of the information shared by carers, ensuring a secure and supportive environment for their personal growth.

Kenneth Marston, our experienced counsellor, emphasizes the power of spoken words, highlighting that the act of speaking is distinct from thinking. Kenneth motivates individuals to share their thoughts openly, believing that doing so will assist them in unravelling and understanding their own thoughts. He mentions the word 'utter' means 'outer', revealing its connection and suggesting that expressing one's thoughts brings them to the surface.

Linda Spencer, another dedicated counsellor, adds a profound layer to the counselling process, describing it as a sacred witnessing. For Linda, the term 'sacred' signifies a sense of humility and privilege. "When I say sacred, I am humbled," she explains, expressing the honour she feels in holding space for individuals toward a comfortable place of opening up. Linda views listening as a sacred act, and is an important part of the sessions provided to those seeking support.

The foundation of therapeutic relationship is pivotal in counselling, where individuals are provided an opportunity to open up to discuss their stressors and concerns. Ken outlines the importance of face-to-face and telephone sessions in establishing a beneficial therapeutic relationship. These modalities, according to him, offer a more immediate and personal connection. Linda also provides telephone and in-person approaches and appreciates the visual reference provided by online meetings, particularly through platforms like Zoom. She notes that many young carers find comfort in these digital spaces, allowing them to participate from the safety and convenience of a familiar environment.

Both Ken and Linda agree that the effectiveness of counselling combines both art and science in collaboration with the carer to affective positive change. They say that convenience, comfort and desires of carers take precedence. Linda mentions that the natural environment and connection to nature provide a unique backdrop for counselling. Linda often hosts sessions in the garden at Howard Springs facility to enhance a carer's experience of resilience and wellbeing.

Counselling, can provide a non-judgemental space to explore internal experiences, relationships with others and the world around you, in order to improve a sense of wellbeing, resilience and positive life outcomes. It's easy for carers to lose sight of their own mental health amid the demands of caregiving. Recognising the need for self-care, Linda emphasizes that it goes beyond mental health; it encompasses the mind-body connection. She advocates for a focus on the physiological aspects of self-care, encouraging individuals to nurture their holistic well-being.

In the world of counselling, where words, emotions and physiology are explored, Ken and Linda shed lights to the diverse pathways individuals can take to seek support. Whether in the serene garden of Howard Springs or the digital world of online platforms, the essence remains the same – a sacred space for healing, understanding, and growth.

'In a short space of time, the counselling sessions have definitely made a positive difference in my life. With guided me through some very difficult times. I'll almost

my life in times of need."

support I have received has gone above and beyond my expectations, proving to be an invaluable resource during challenging times.

is having someone like Linda to talk to when things take a downturn or when I am going through a tough period. judgment, embarrassment, or stress. It is not just the emotional support but the practical tips and strategies that Linda provides to help manage difficult circumstances effectively.

The advice and guidance have been instrumental in actionable steps to apply when facing issues. counselling sessions is a crucial aspect that adds to the sense of my security. Knowing that I can be myself without reservation or fear of my thoughts being shared fostering an environment of openness.

I recommend Carers NT's counselling services to my peers and anyone in need of support. The advantages of speaking to a third person, coupled with the understanding and empathetic approach of Carers NT.'

Julie Rankin



### **CARERS CHEERS**

'The Peer support groups is my 'me time', and I am grateful I have access to this in such a lovely location at Howard Springs which is close to my home'.

**Anonymous** 

'Thank you and your incredible team - Andrea and Maria have made such a positive impact on our family's life. Thank you so much for your patience, care, support, and information which has been truly appreciated. Keep up the great work.'

Anonymous

'I have been part of the Rural Peer Support for a couple of years now with Carers NT. We meet on a monthly basis for an hour and a half. We are a group with similar roles of caring for a loved one.

In these sessions we learn about looking after ourselves via self-care, how to access counselling, mindfulness and help connect with businesses we require for helping in our caring role, looking after ourselves to reduce burn out. Guest speakers come to some sessions to help us navigate in the community and access things that may not be on our day-to-day scope."

Ruth Laker

'Gosh I think you guys do a wonderful job. I enjoy our Peer Support Groups and appreciate everything that you do. I love our groups at our new Howard Springs location'

Maria Manlistor

'I am so grateful≠ and enjoy attending the Peer Support Groups at Howard Springs. We started off as strangers, but we all have gotten to know each other and have formed great friendships. We always have a good catch up and have great conversations when we see each other. I have received great support from Carers NT, and Andrea has a been a great help with supporting me and facilitating our support groups.'

Robin Hempel



Becoming the young carer of 2023 was a very surrea and humbling experience. To say the least, it slips my mind that I've earned such an award to be honest

Since the award ceremony I feel like I've grown closer with my family. I've taken a gap year after finishing year 12 and have been mostly working to earn money to save up for university potentially out of state. The young carers programs have allowed me to meet other young carers in similar circumstances and it has also allowed carers to relieve stress by participating in fun activities like painting a couch or bowling at kingpin.

I think it's important for the community to recognize the hardships young carers go through to provide more opportunities during and after school. Just by talking to them can make them feel a little stress relieved allowing them to temporarily think about other things. The community can help to spread the word especially to those who aren't aware of the young carer group and where more information about young carer facilities can be found.

Young carers need to take breaks from caring responsibility, as the mental health of young carers is just as important as the mental health of the Caree, and sometimes being the carer of someone else can induce stress, thus taking a break every now and again is essential for a young carer.

Uxel Mason - Young Carer Program

'It is so great that Carers NT have not forgotten about the rural people, especially carers. We are always expected to go into town for support, but Carers NT have come out to us so we don't have to travel far and leave our loved ones for long.'

Anonymous





## **CHRISTMAS**

Carers NT rang in the festive season with the much-anticipated Staff Christmas Celebration at the Zen Rooftop on 15 December 2023 with approximately 40 staff members gathered for an evening of merriment and festive cheer.

The venue looked vibrant with green, red, and white as everyone dressed in their best Christmas-themed outfits, adding a touch of whimsy to the occasion. The atmosphere buzzed with excitement as staff mingled and shared in the festive spirit.

The team orchestrated a series of lively and entertaining games, providing an extra dose of energy into the celebration. Laughter echoed through the venue as staff members participated enthusiastically, fostering a sense of unity and community.

In the meantime, 00Seven Jet Ski Adventures wowed Carers NT with a remarkable display, skilfully creating a breathtaking 'C' for Carers in the ocean with three jet skis.

A highlight of the evening was the Secret Santa gift exchange, where attendees experienced the thrill of surprise and the good-natured mischief of gift-stealing. The exchange not only brought joy but also showcased the creativity and thoughtfulness of the team.

The Staff Christmas Celebration at Zen Rooftop stands as a testament to the organization's commitment to fostering a positive and vibrant work culture. As it comes to the year end, the event left everyone with warm memories, strengthened bonds, and a collective anticipation for the promising year ahead. Here's to another year of shared successes, laughter, and festive celebrations at Carers NT!





























TERESA SMITHSON AND YUGESH SONI CELEBRATE 10 YEARS OF SERVICE AT CARERS NT

# CHEERS TO A DECADE OF DEDICATION







An Australian Government Initiative





For further information on our events and services, visit our website, social media pages or contact us on 08 8944 4888 | 1800 422 737 | carersnt@carersnt.asn.au| PO Box 40135 Casuarina NT 0810

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Nhulunbuy Endeavour Square

#### Carers NT is supported by:

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