

20 March 2019

Elena Katrakis CEO Carers NSW elenak@carersnsw.org.au

Dear Elena

I refer to your request for support for carers and the Carers NSW election policy platform.

Carers are essential to our community, looking after people who are frail, or have a disability, addiction, or mental, terminal or chronic illness. They save the health system billions each year, often at the expense of their own health, and economic and social advancement. It is essential that carers get the support they need to provide care as well as help to pursue education, social and work opportunities.

I support the position that we need to increase awareness of carers and their needs, create a safety net for carers falling through the gaps, support families of children with disability in crisis, enable carers to take a break and ensure young carers are adequately supported. These asks are small, but they would go a long way to improving the lives of carers and those for whom they care.

I have a strong record of advocating for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and recent work has helped restore funding to disability advocacy services and get the current government to set a homelessness reduction target. I have called for payroll tax exemptions for employers who hire carers returning to the workforce.

Thank you for bringing the concerns of carers to my attention. If re-elected, I hope to work with you on supporting carers and ensuring their concerns are addressed.

Yours sincerely

Alex Greenwich **Member for Sydney**

