

CARE PROVES COSTLY

Research by Carers Australia estimates that in 2010 over 1.32 billion hours of unpaid family care is provided by family and friends to people with a chronic illness, disability, mental illness, chronic condition, terminal illness, or who are frail. Of this 1.32 billion hours, primary carers provide 54% or 714m hours of care annually, despite representing only 19% of all carers. Carers CEO Joan Hughes, said: "Due to their caring responsibilities, carers are significantly less likely to participate in the workforce." Access Economics estimates there are 129,000 unpaid family carers unable to join the paid workforce. Carers are less likely to be working full-time than the average (42%). Full-time employment among primary carers is just 19.2%, half the general population. The rate for non-primary carers is 36.4%. In 2010, a total of \$1.29 billion of potential tax revenue is estimated to be forgone due to the lower workforce participation of carers. Carers Australia's research: www.carersaustralia.com.au

World Priority For Mental Health

Tony Fowke AM, President of the World Federation of Mental Health and Arafmi President spoke to the National Press Club in Canberra at a forum hosted by the Mental Health Council of Aust. "WFMH is developing a program – the Great Push for Mental Health – to ensure that mental health is given priority in all countries. The connections between physical and mental illnesses, and the relationship between these illnesses and human productivity and mortality, are key to such prioritisation," Mr Fowke said.