

The Taskforce on Care Costs turns its attention to aged and disability care
25 September 2007

The Taskforce on Care Costs is pleased to announce that it is joining forces with both Families Australia and Carers Australia to better understand the needs of people with responsibilities for aged and disability care.

A key issue for TOCC is identifying and quantifying the relationship between workforce participation and aged and disability care. What choices are Australians currently making about how they balance work and care? Why are they making those choices? How do Australians envisage their work and care futures? How could the Government and business make life easier for working carers?

To understand these issues, and to enable TOCC to make considered recommendations to Government and business, TOCC has commenced a rigorous programme of research comprising

1. **Focus groups in Melbourne, Sydney and rural Victoria (September/October 2007):** to enable carers to provide feedback on what is working well and what is not regarding their current caring responsibilities and work arrangements.
2. **Expert Roundtable in Canberra (5 October 2007):** to identify current research and options for improving the work and caring dynamic.
3. **Random sample national survey (October 2007):** to help quantify the relationship between work and care for employed carers, and in particular the risks to workforce participation rates.
4. **International comparative research (September 2007):** to identify best international practice by Governments and business to assist working carers.

Final report: The findings from TOCC's research and recommendations will be published in a national report by the Taskforce on Care Costs (TOCC) which is due for release November 2007.

As always, TOCC welcomes the involvement of national decision makers in this detailed research process.

TOCC is supported by over 45 high profile business and non-government organisations. TOCC was established in 2003 to investigate the relationship between work and the cost of care, and propose sustainable and fair solutions to give carers choice. TOCC has found that 1 in 4 workers is likely to leave the workforce because of the cost of care.