

Application form

Title (Mr/Ms/Mrs/Dr/Other) _____

Surname _____

First Name _____

Position _____

Organisation _____

Mailing address _____

State _____ Postcode _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Notice of intention to attend (please tick)

I wish to receive further information about the Conference

Call for papers (please tick)

I wish to submit an abstract as a paper

Abstracts must be received by **Monday 31 March 2003**.
Please attach a 50-word speaker profile.

Abstract title: _____

Author/s name: _____

Presenter/s name (if different from the author): _____

Key words: _____

Are you a first time presenter? Yes No

Audio visual requirements:

Data projection Overhead projector

Canberra - the host city

Canberra is a place where people have always gathered. Even the name is appropriate, being the Aboriginal word for 'meeting place'. Canberra is home to the national parliament, the major national institutions and host to numerous national and international attractions and events. Canberra's world-class facilities and national attractions live in harmony with the bushland environment.



Floriade - Australia's celebration of spring

Floriade is a 30-day festival of flowers and fun complemented by entertainment and events throughout the national capital - to be held from 13 September to 12 October 2003.

Conference venue

Rydges Canberra is located on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin. It is a few minutes' walk from Civic, the commercial and shopping centre of Canberra, and a 10-15 minute drive from Canberra airport.

Accommodation

A range of accommodation has been organised for delegates attending the conference ranging from 3 to 5 star hotels as well as apartments. Full details will be listed in the registration brochure.

Important dates

31 March 2003	Deadline for abstracts
30 April 2003	Outcome of abstract submissions advised
June 2003	Registration brochure available
31 July 2003	Close of early bird registration



Hosted by
Carers Australia
The national voice of carers



**First Announcement and
Call for Papers**

**Rydges Canberra
18 & 19 September 2003**

Invitation to a National Conference

Caring Matters - A National Debate will be a conference to raise national debate on the strategic and policy matters that affect the lives of Australia's 2.3 million unpaid family and other informal carers.

With the trend away from residential support, the demand for unpaid informal care has grown enormously. This trend is expected to accelerate as the Australian population ages.

I invite you to participate in this event, to come and listen to what the experts and opinion leaders are saying and to make your own contribution to the debate and to network with others who share similar interests in caring.

I look forward to welcoming you to the conference.

Louise Gilmore

President - Carers Australia

Themes, program and presentations

Caring Matters – A National Debate will cover a wide range of topics for debate that will interest carers, policy makers, service providers, and anyone concerned with people with disabilities, chronic illness, mental illness or frail older people.

We are seeking papers that will stimulate and expand thinking on caring issues. We will particularly welcome contributions that will stir debate on questions such as the following:



- What will be the demands on carers as our population ages and the number of people with severe and profound restrictions in undertaking core activities significantly increases?
- Where does unpaid family and other informal care fit within our community? What is the community's attitude to caring and why is it not widely recognised as part of our normal everyday activities? Is caring limited to always being a maternal family matter? How do carers see themselves and what sort of support are they seeking?
- What are the rights of carers? What are the rights of carers who are not family members? What is 'Duty of Care' in the home? What is the carer's responsibility in relation to the wishes of the person they are supporting? What are the ethical and legal issues for carers? What are the insurance issues for carers?
- What are employers' responsibilities towards employees who are carers? How can carers juggle paid employment, participation in the community and caring? What will enable carers to manage financially, emotionally and physically?
- Is it OK for carers to accept outside help from strangers? What happens when beliefs, values and cultures about caring conflict?
- What is the role of the formal care system in assisting carers? What is the responsibility of medical practitioners in working with carers? How can carers be assisted in the transition to institutional care, during the terminal phases of illness and after the loss of the person they have supported?
- What are the spiritual needs of carers? How can carers find meaning and enrichment? How do carers achieve balance in their lives? How can carers overcome isolation? What enables carers to grow?



Call for Abstracts

To finalise the program, you are invited to submit for consideration abstracts for workshop sessions that will stimulate debate. The topics must be relevant to caring and of national interest. They should address key areas including but not exclusively: the perceptions and values held about unpaid family and other informal care in the community; stereotypes of carers, images and reality; carer recognition and government policy; carer identity, reaching and communicating with carers; carers spirituality and enrichment; carers and employment; carers and financial and insurance issues; carers and ethical/legal issues; carer health and wellbeing; carers and primary health care; carers and community care; carers in transition; carers and disability services; carers and use of technology; carer policy and legislation.

Abstracts should be no more than 250 words in Microsoft Word format. Please submit your proposal by email to Conference Solutions at carers@con-sol.com by **31 March 2003** with 'Conference Abstract' in the subject line. Abstracts are to be formatted to one A4 page, 25mm margins, no borders in 12 point Arial font. Abstracts must be single spaced with one line between paragraphs. A brief speaker profile of no more than 50 words must be attached to the abstract.

Late entries may not be considered. The submission of an abstract is an indication of a commitment to attend the conference as a registrant if selected. A completed Application Form must be submitted with the abstract.



Application Form and Expressions of Interest

Abstract submission and enquiries:

Conference Solutions as agent for Carers Australia
PO Box 238, Deakin West ACT 2600
Tel 02 6285 3000, Fax 02 6285 3001
Email carers@con-sol.com