

MEDIA RELEASE

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Carer Gateway and Western Sydney Wanderers team up to boost wellbeing of local carers

<u>The Benevolent Society</u> - <u>Carer Gateway</u> have announced a new partnership with the <u>Western Sydney</u> <u>Wanderers</u> to champion the vital role of carers in the Western Sydney and Greater Sydney communities and the free support available to them.

Over the next 12 months, Carer Gateway and the Western Sydney Wanderers will host family-friendly events to increase awareness of the free <u>services and support</u> available to carers. Carer Gateway is the Australian Government's national carer hub and its services are free to access if you care for a family member or friend with disability, a medical condition, mental illness or who is frail due to age.

With <u>2.65 million carers in Australia</u> and the <u>2023 Carer Wellbeing Survey</u> revealing carers continue to be at high risk of poor wellbeing and health, greater community awareness is needed to ensure carers can access the support available to them.

Lin Hatfield Dodds, CEO at The Benevolent Society, said: "The Benevolent Society - Carer Gateway are proud to partner with the Western Sydney Wanderers to let people know about the help that is available for people who care for a loved one. We know caring for someone can be tough and that support at the right time can make a difference. This is a fantastic opportunity to work with a likeminded organisation."

Scott Hudson, CEO of the Western Sydney Wanderers, said: "We are very grateful to be able to partner with Carer Gateway to provide an avenue to raise awareness of the services and support available to carers. The Wanderers have a strong reach in Western Sydney and we are proud to use this in a way to assist Carer Gateway and take care of our community."

The first of these events - the **Carer Gateway and Western Sydney Wanderers Family Day** - will take place on Saturday March 23 at Wanderers Football Park (81 Eastern Road, Gate B, Rooty Hill) from 10am to 3pm. Admission is FREE with carers, families and friends all invited to join in the fun. For free tickets, <u>register here.</u>

Meet your favourite players and enjoy the exciting activities planned: soccer games, face painting, a jumping castle, magician, inflatable obstacle course, mini-golf and much more. The Carer Gateway team will also be sharing information and resources for carers.

There's plenty more events and activities planned for 2024. Stay tuned for further details by visiting The Benevolent Society – Carer Gateway website.

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About Carer Gateway

<u>Carer Gateway</u> is an Australian Government program providing free <u>services and support</u> for carers. If you care for a family member or friend with disability, a medical condition, mental illness, or who is frail due to age, then Carer Gateway can help you. The Australian Government works with a range of health and carer organisations across Australia, known as <u>Carer Gateway service providers</u>, to deliver services to carers no matter where they live in Australia. By calling Carer Gateway on 1800 422 737 Monday to Friday between 8am and 5pm, you will be connected to your local Carer Gateway service provider who will talk with you to understand your needs and help you to find tailored local services and support to help you.

About The Benevolent Society

The Benevolent Society, operating since 1813, provides integrated support services to children, young people and families, older Australians, people with disability and carers. It has more than 1,000 people-first practitioners working to help people live their life, their way. As one of Australia's first charitable organisations, The Benevolent Society has pioneered positive social change and uses its practice wisdom to advocate for a just, caring society. Visit benevolent.org.au for more information.

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