



NEW SOUTH WALES

MEDIA RELEASE

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COTA NSW FORUM GIVES GRANDPARENT CARERS THE FACTS ABOUT THE LAW

“Grandparent carers constantly ask us questions about the laws that affect them,” says Ian Day CEO of Council on the Ageing NSW (COTA NSW). “Each year we bring together experts who can give them the facts they need at our Grandparents and the Law forum. This year it will be held on Tuesday 23 September 2014 in the Sydney CBD.”

“There are tens of thousands of grandparents in NSW who are full-time ‘formal’ carers of their grandchildren, along with many more who are ‘informal’ full-time carers. Often, they’ve taken on the care of their grandkids in times of extreme stress. Many times, grandparents assume care of their grandchildren because their adult children have a physical or mental illness, addiction, or are facing imprisonment. Grandparents who step in to care for their grandkids in such circumstances can then face some complex legal issues.”

“Grandparent carers who don’t understand the law can suffer. This is because their ability to get crucial financial benefits and services will hinge on whether they’re legally recognised as the carers of their grandchildren or not.”

“Grandparents often find it hard to understand the system. That’s why we’ve brought together speakers from key players, including FaCS, the Children’s Court and Legal Aid NSW, to clarify some of the complexities and to allow grandparent carers to ask questions.”

The Grandparents and the Law forum is a free event and will take place on Tuesday 23 September at 9.30 a.m. in the SMSA Building at 280 Pitt St, near Town Hall. Morning tea will be provided. More information about the forum is available on the COTA NSW website or on (02) 9286 3860 or 1800 449 102 (for people calling from regional NSW).

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