



NEW SOUTH WALES

MEDIA RELEASE

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RECOGNISING GRANDPARENT CARE A POSITIVE SAYS COTA NSW

“Sydney is home to some of the most expensive real estate in the country along with some of the most expensive childcare. The Productivity Commission is right to note that many families are struggling to access affordable, quality childcare. Nowhere is this problem more acute than in NSW and we endorse the Commission’s move to expand current childcare options to include grandparent carers,” says Ian Day, CEO of COTA NSW.

Under the changes proposed by the Commission, grandparents would become eligible to be paid by the government to care for children if they acquired the minimum childcare qualification, a Certificate III in Early Childcare Education from a TAFE College.

“We know that some grandparents reach so-called ‘retirement age’ in dire financial straits. Women who’ve taken years out of the workforce to care for their own children are among those most likely to face a poor older age. These women could potentially benefit from the changes now being suggested by the Commission, particularly as the age you become eligible for the pension will rise from 65 to 70.

Obviously COTA NSW is not suggesting that grandparents need to obtain a formal qualification in order to deliver wonderful care. Indeed, the main reason that adult children ask their parents to care for grandkids is because they value the care offered by family members so highly.

What the Commission is recognising is that grandparents who need remuneration in order to be able to provide care to their grandkids should be able to receive it. Remember, more and more older people will need to keep working as they age. It would be crazy if we had a childcare regime that didn’t allow grandparents who wish to qualify themselves as professional carers to look after their own grandkids and be paid for doing so.”

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Interview Ian Day

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