

SUNSHINE COAST FAMILY NETWORKS ASSOC. Inc.

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To whom it may concern

Sunshine Coast Family Networks Association is a not for profit, community based organisation that provides direct support to families that care for a person with a disability. ***SCFNA has been funded by Disability Services Queensland to ascertain the current and future support needs of Older Parent Carers across the four shires of Caloundra, Maroochy, Noosa and Cooloola shires.*** It is envisaged that this will be achieved through collaboration with individuals, families, service providers and community organisations to identify suitable families that fit the criteria.

The project has 2 stages;

Stage 1 will be to compile a register of older parent carers (see below for eligibility criteria) to identify families current and future needs in terms of respite support and or long term accommodation options for the family member with a disability.

Stage 2. Once the register is established, in consultation with families, the family member with a disability and service providers, the project offers “once off” non recurrent funds to provide practical respite support options that meet the individual’s needs. The vision also, if applicable to your situation is to identify possible future cotenants that could share viable and cost efficient support arrangements.

As we are aware, respite services play a critical role in keeping families together and strengthening the ability of the families to continue caring for their family member with a disability. However, in the instance of older parent carers, the

capacity of families to continue caring may be diminishing over time as a result of failing health, reduced energy and exhaustion.

Sunshine Coast Family Networks Association would very much appreciate it if you could please pass the following information packages on to families within your service that fit the *Older Parent Carer criteria*. The criteria are as follows;

- ❖ Older Parent Carer aged 65 years and older
- ❖ Aboriginal / Torres Strait Islander Older Parent Carer aged 50 years and older
- ❖ The person with the disability must meet the criteria set by the *Disability Services Act 2006*. The impairment must be permanent in nature or likely to be permanent, or may be of a chronic, episodic or recurring nature.
- ❖ The person with a disability is cared for in the family home
- ❖ The family must live within the four shires of Caloundra, Maroochy, Noosa and Cooloola Shires

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like to arrange a time to meet to discuss the project further.

Thank you

Colleen Cliffe

Senior Project Officer

Sunshine Coast Family Networks Association Inc.