

Carer project gains kudos in Parliament

THE dedication of carers has been recognised in a speech in Parliament.

During a debate about the launch of the NSW Carers Strategy, Port Macquarie MP Leslie Williams told Parliament about the work of the Port Macquarie Carers Group and the launch of the second edition of its Carer Profile Project.

"In early April the minister foraging John Ajaka visited the Port Macquarie electorate and his genuine compassion and honesty meant he spent a considerable amount of time during that day talking to local carers," Mrs Williams said.

The minister joined Mrs Williams to meet the Port Macquarie Carers Group convened by Dawn Davies.

"She and I shared a belief that the minister should hear firsthand from carers who were facing challenges in their everyday lives," Mrs Williams said.

The Port Macquarie Carers Group is made up of people from all walks of life who care for someone and most have family members involved in the programs at ACES.

The carers group started in 2006 and monthly meetings are held at the Port Macquarie Neighbourhood Centre.

"One of the recent highlights and real milestones of the group was the launch of the Carer Profile Project which I launched during Carers Week last year," Mrs Williams said.

"The idea for the project originated from local carer Jan Dennis who could see the benefits of compiling a collec-



Carers recognised: Port Macquarie Carers Group member Jan Dennis, convener Dawn Davies and Port Macquarie MP Leslie Williams discuss the Carer Profile Project.

tion of carer profiles that were honest, concise and heartfelt.

"She believed the project could be used to raise awareness about the challenges carers face."

The featured stories give a snapshot of the life of carers in a bid to inform decision-makers and those responsible for shaping social policy.

Erica Lake coordinated the project, supported by Dawn and Jan.

"I thank all those who contributed to the Carer Profile Project, which was an excellent initiative and one that will be well sourced throughout our community and more broadly," Mrs Williams said.

The MP looks forward to presenting a copy of the 2014 version to Mr Ajaka.

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