

2023 Election

How will you and your Party care for NZ's one million plus family, whānau , and āiga carers?



Will you commit to doing better for family carers?

Our country's large community of family carers have been let down by successive governments.

A Carers' Strategy for New Zealand was launched in 2008, with three five-year Action Plans since.

But progress has been too slow.

It's time now for government to step up and take responsibility for supporting its largest and most undervalued workforce – family, whānau and āiga carers.

A family carer is a person who supports a member of their family, whānau, or āiga who is unwell or has a chronic health condition or disability. We're your mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, grandparents, children, cousins and friends. And we need help.

The impacts of caring

Being a carer is tough. We get little help for the family care and support we provide. A lot is expected of us, more than ever during the pandemic, but caring has impacts:

- We experience high rates of depression, loneliness, and anxiety
- Our life satisfaction is much lower than that of other New Zealanders
- Our physical health is poor
- We earn less than other New Zealanders and we struggle to balance work and education with our caring role

Will you and your party support a Minister or Commissioner for Family Carers?

Carers are an afterthought across government. They shouldn't be. Their unpaid work has an annual economic value of \$17.6b and priceless social and family value. Give them a home in government.

If elected, will your government make a difference for the million plus New Zealanders who are carers?

We urgently need help that only the next government can provide.

We are asking for:

- A Minister or Commissioner for Family Carers to provide leadership across government, so we are not forgotten

And a renewed Carers' Strategy Action Plan from 2024 that:

- Protects our physical, mental and financial wellbeing,
- Is fair so we have equitable access to available support and services,
- And fixes New Zealand's broken respite system so we can have breaks from our role wherever we live in Aotearoa.



A family carer is someone of any age, ethnicity, or location who assists a friend or family member who is frail, unwell, or has an ongoing health condition or disability, and who, without this help, would struggle with day to day living.

THE ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION & SACRIFICES OF FAMILY, WHĀNAU AND ĀIGA CARERS IN NEW ZEALAND

INFOMETRICS REPORT DATA SUMMARY

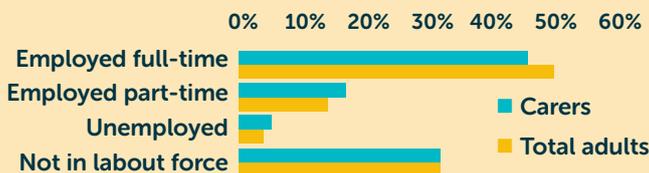
432,000 unpaid carers in Aotearoa*, **1 in 7 adults**. This has changed little since Census 2001. The true number of family carers could be up to 50% higher, equivalent to 9.6 unpaid family carers for every professional carer. Carers NZ estimates that based on global carer numbers, there are likely to be 1m+ family carers in New Zealand.

*Source: Census 2018

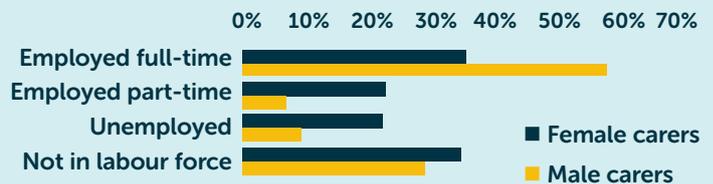
The annual economic contribution of caring is **\$17.6bn** or **5.4% of GDP**. The entire health and social services sector accounts for **6.4% of GDP**.

Carers lose an estimated **\$1,536m** in employment revenue per annum; **97.3%** is lost earnings, **2.7%** is from lost employer/government Kiwisaver contributions.

Carers are more likely to work part-time
This has changed little since 2006



Female carers are more likely to work part-time



TWO-THIRDS of lost income is lost by female carers

The Government loses



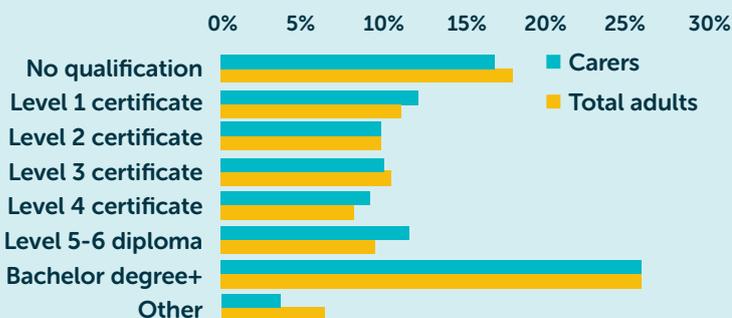
in tax revenue annually

Carers more likely to be professionals



Carers have a median household income of **\$87,100** compared with **\$97,400** for non-carers. The income penalty for carers compared to non-carers is 11%.

Carers have similar qualification levels to all adults



Carers may be forced to work beyond retirement age because caring means they haven't enough money to retire

22% of female carers aged 65+ years are employed, compared with

17% of female non-carers



64% of family carers provided more care during COVID-19

51% did so due to support services being reduced or closed

WHAT THE NUMBERS MEAN FOR CARERS

SCENARIO 1 A female carer working 30 hours per week instead of 40 between the ages of 35 and 65

Lost gross earnings	\$888,000
Lost employer Kiwisaver contributions	\$8,000
Lost Government Kiwisaver contributions	\$0
Total lost revenue to carer	\$896,000
Lost tax on gross earnings to Government	\$284,000

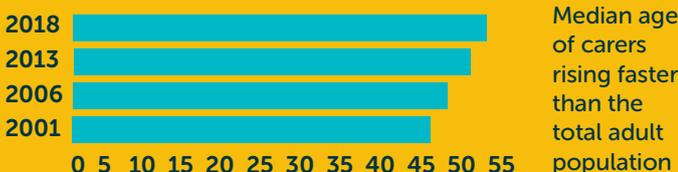
SCENARIO 2 A female carer who retires early at age 45 to care, having previously worked full-time

Lost gross earnings	\$1,628,000
Lost employer Kiwisaver contributions	\$18,000
Lost Government Kiwisaver contributions	\$5,000
Total lost revenue to carer	\$1,651,000
Lost tax on gross earnings to Government	\$358,000

SCENARIO 3 A young Māori female who cares for an elderly relative between the ages of 18 and 34, delays post-school study for four years until age 22, and enters the workforce at age 25 working part-time until age 34, working full-time thereafter

Lost gross earnings	\$419,000
Lost employer Kiwisaver contributions	\$6,300
Lost Government Kiwisaver contributions	\$1,700
Total lost revenue to carer	\$427,000
Lost tax on gross earnings to Government	\$92,000

Carers' median age rising



432,000 unpaid carers in Aotearoa, **1 in every 7 adults**. The true number could be up to **50% higher, 9.6** unpaid carers for every professional carer. This would double Ilnometrics' projections.

SCENARIO ASSUMPTIONS

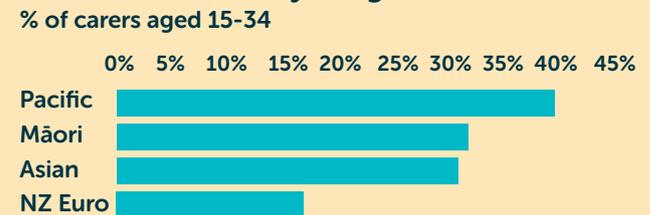
- Current average hourly earnings based on June 2022 quarter Household Labour Force Survey
- Earnings increase at long-term average growth rate of **3.7%pa**
- **3%** employer Kiwisaver contributions
- Maximum current annual Government Kiwisaver contribution of **\$521.43**
- Current tax rates remain constant
- Tax brackets increase each year at same growth rate as earnings
- Future earnings are discounted at **2.65%pa** to incorporate 2%pa growth in prices and 0.65% risk-free rate of interest on savings
- Kiwisaver contributions are discounted at **9%pa** to incorporate 2%pa growth in prices and 7% equity risk premium

85,000 carers are aged 15-34

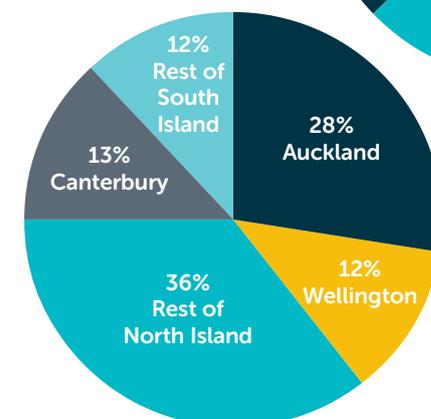
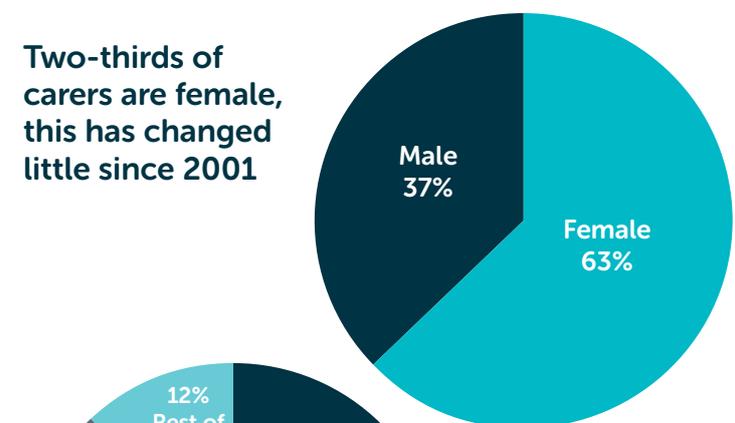


The number of young carers would be higher if carers under 15 years old were counted

Pasifika carers are youngest



Two-thirds of carers are female, this has changed little since 2001



Over one-quarter of carers live in Auckland

The Carers Alliance was formed in 2004 to seek meaningful change for our country's family, whānau, and āiga carers. Together we support hundreds of thousands of families. We do our part every day in our mahi as NGOs - we rely on you to do your part to make a true difference for these neglected New Zealanders.



Join our call to help NZ's 1m+ family carers



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<https://wecare.nz>