

## VISION STATEMENT

To advance the implementation of this Strategy and to build on existing supports and services for carers, it is important to articulate a clear Vision of the future for carers. Carers and their representative organisations have informed this Vision. It is the ultimate goal that the Strategy will work to achieve and, therefore, a key foundation for both the Strategy and for any actions taken to progress its implementation both in the short to medium term and in the longer term.

Carers spend a significant proportion of their lives providing support to family and friends. Most will say that the care that they provide is a normal part of being a family member and a responsibility that comes with being a parent, relative or friend. However, caring can be demanding and difficult and the Vision Statement highlights that carers deserve respect, recognition and support for the work that they do.

Carers have an expert knowledge of the person and of the condition of the person for whom they are caring. However, many can feel that this expertise is undervalued and often ignored when decisions relating to the care recipient are being made. The Vision Statement highlights that carers should be considered as key partners in the caring process and should be consulted with when decisions are being made about the care recipient's needs.

Caring can affect all aspects of a person's life and too often carers' opportunities to develop and maintain their personal, community and occupational interests can be limited. The Vision Statement highlights that carers, who choose to care, should be empowered to do so without detriment to their inclusion in society and to their health.

### Vision Statement

*Carers will be recognised and respected as key care partners. They will be supported to maintain their own health and well-being and to care with confidence. They will be empowered to participate as fully as possible in economic and social life.*

*Eve 16*  
*Tareesh*  
*18/07/2012*

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following Guiding Principles underpin this Strategy. The application of these principles will bring Ireland closer to the Vision for carers as articulated above and will ensure that the perspectives and preferences of carers are fully considered in any decision-making and service provision that affects them.

**Recognition:** Carers will be treated with dignity and respect and valued for their contribution.

**Support:** Carers will be supported in relation to the extent of their involvement at every point on the care continuum.

**Empowerment:** Carers will feel empowered to make decisions about how they choose to live their lives as individuals in their own right.