

## Carer Council Q&A

(updated 12/7/23)

CF&KC-SA will administer the new Carer Council at the invitation of the Minister for Child Protection, The Honorable Katrine Hildyard.

The Carer Council was a key recommendation from Dr Fiona Arney's Independent Inquiry into Foster and Kinship Care, and will provide a dedicated platform for the Carer voice to be heard by State government on issues crucial to improving the child protection system and the rights of Carers.

A Project Lead will be appointed to establish and oversee the Minister-appointed Carer Council and an independent facilitator will be engaged to Chair the meetings. Recruitment for the Project Lead is currently underway – [click here](#) for details

### **Why is an administrator needed?**

As administrator, CF&KC-SA will support the Council to gather feedback for the Minister's consideration. CF&KC-SA will ensure the Council meets its obligations when dealing with sensitive and confidential information and report back to the Minister on the progress of the Council's work.

### **Who will chair the Council?**

An independent facilitator will be appointed to guide discussions and draw out feedback that is representative of the demographic, rather than based on personal experiences.

### **How many people will be on the council?**

There will be a minimum of 12 members appointed to the Council, with representation reflective of foster and kinship carers, Aboriginal carers and carers living in regional South Australia.

### **How often will the council meet?**

The Carer Council will be required to meet a minimum of three times per year. CF&KC-SA has confirmed the Council will meet four times per year given the breadth of information the peak body would like discussed and shared with the Government.

### **How do I apply to join the Carer Council?**

Applications will be invited from carers registered under the *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017* who are currently caring for children or young people or who have done so within the last six months or those who are regularly provide emergency, short, long or respite care over a 12-month period.

The EOI application process will begin in late July/August 2023.

### **Why will the Council have 12 members – is this enough to adequately represent the interests of carers living across SA or to represent the types of carers living in South Australia?**

Membership will be selected to ensure, as far as possible, that there is proportionate representation of the active carer population, including particularly Aboriginal carers, kinship carers and foster carers.

### **Will grandparents who are appointed kinship carers as a result of a court decision be represented on the Council?**

The Carer Council is specifically intended to provide a voice for foster and kinship carers who are formally registered under the *Children and Young People (Safety) Act*, and

caring for children under the guardianship of the Chief Executive of DCP. Privately agreed care arrangements and those determined by the Family Law Court fall outside the intended scope of the Council.

**How will applications be assessed? / Are there criteria for selection?**

Approved current carers and those providing regular care are eligible to apply. Final selection of members will be made by the Minister, with a view to ensuring the 12-member (minimum) council is proportionally representative of the cross section of South Australia's kinship and foster carers, Aboriginal carers and those based in regional areas.

**Who makes the final decision on who joins the Council?**

Carers will be appointed to the Council by the Minister for Child Protection.

For further enquiries, please email: [carercouncil@cfc-sa.org.au](mailto:carercouncil@cfc-sa.org.au)