

Carer Council

Proudly administered by CF&KC-SA

E carercouncil@cfc-sa.org.au

W www.cfc-sa.org.au/carere-council/

Freecall 1800 732 272

What is the Carer Council?

The Carer Council was a key recommendation from Dr Fiona Arney's Independent Inquiry into Foster and Kinship Care. The Carer Council 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.

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.

Can I contact the Carer Council directly?

Carers are encouraged to contact Lauren Gibbs, Carer Council Project Lead on freecall 1800 723 272 or email: carercouncil@cfc-sa.org.au

How can my issues be heard by the Carer Council?

Public consultation sessions will be held for Carers to provide their feedback on issues you would like the Carer Council to consider. Details of these sessions will be made available on our website: www.cfc-sa.org.au/carere-council/

Why is an administrator needed?

At the invitation of the Minister for Child Protection, The Honorable Katrine Hildyard, CF&KC-SA were invited to administer the newly formed Carer Council. 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 facilitate the Council?

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

Carer Council Chair: Lorraine Joy, Deputy Chair: Gail Ward

Who will oversee the Council?

Lauren Gibbs has been appointed as the Project Lead to oversee the Minister-appointed Carer Council.

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, as per the Minister's guidelines.

updated 7th March 2024

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 was 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.

Who was eligible to join the Carer Council?

Applications were 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 was undertaken in late 2023.

How were applications assessed? / Was there criteria for selection?

Approved current carers and those providing regular care were eligible to apply. Final selection of members was 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 made the final decision on who joins the Council?

Carers were appointed to the Council by the Minister for Child Protection.

How do I find out more?

[Click here](#) to visit our website; email carercouncil@cfc-sa.org.au or phone freecall 1800 732 272 to speak with Lauren Gibbs, Carer Council Project Lead. You can also sign up to our free Membership to be kept informed of Carer Council updates and other news relating to Foster & Kinship Carers – [click here to join](#)