

## **Report to the Honourable Katrine Hildyard, Minister for Child Protection The Inaugural Carer Council Meeting 1 December 2023**

### **Introduction**

This report is prepared for the Honourable Katrine Hildyard, Minister for Child Protection, to provide a summary of the inaugural Carer Council meeting.

Providing a written report to the Minister following each meeting is a requirement set out in the Carer Council's draft Terms of Reference.

The inaugural Carer Council meeting was held on 1 December 2023 from 9:00am to 4:30pm. All twelve newly appointed Members attended. Also present was Dana Shen as the facilitator, Lauren Gibbs as the CF&KC-SA Carer Council Project Lead, and Fiona Endacott as CEO of CF&KC-SA. Minister Hildyard and her adviser Matthew Pearce attended at the commencement of the meeting for an introduction.

### **Background**

#### **Agenda**

The agenda for the meeting included developing group norms, finalising the Terms of Reference, and developing a work plan.

The key documents to provide to the Minister following the meeting are the endorsed Terms of Reference and the Carer Council's Work Plan for approval.

#### **Priority areas**

The members were informed by CF&KC-SA that the priority areas of interest to the Minister and CF&KC-SA are:

- Respite;
- Sibling connections;
- Legislation review;
- Communication to and from carers;
- Access to therapeutic supports;
- Retention and attraction of carers;
- Carer remuneration;
- Care concerns; and
- Support for carers (including mental health, wellbeing and peer support).

The Minister identified that amongst these priority areas, the first topic of discussion should be retention and attraction of carers. Other important priority areas to address in a timely manner are respite, therapeutic support for children and young people, support for carers, and communication to and from carers.

Members, during the meeting, identified a further two priority areas to add to the Work Plan of workforce consistency and training, and cultural connections.

## Recommendations

### Terms of Reference

#### Key changes

Members have requested the following amendments to the Terms of Reference:

- The appointment of a Deputy Chair to fulfil the Chair role in the absence of the Chair.
- A commitment to four meetings in the Terms of Reference, rather than the three meetings per the funding agreement.

A final Terms of Reference, correctly formatted with the shown changes, is included separately. This Terms of Reference, is endorsed by the Carer Council Members and is ready for endorsement by the Minister.

#### Deputy Chair

In line with the Member's proposal for a Deputy Chair, The Carer Council has sought expressions of interest for a Deputy Chair. Voting will occur in January and the name of the successful Member will be provided to the Minister for endorsement soon.

### Work plan

A schedule was developed as follows for the subsequent three scheduled meetings, prioritising key priority areas:

Meeting	Priority Areas
<b>Meeting 2 5/03/2024</b>	<b>Retention and attraction of carers Care Concerns Carer Remuneration Legislation</b>
Rationale	Retention and attraction of carers is the Minister's priority topic. In retaining and attracting carers, it is vital that the care concern process and carer remuneration is reviewed. These are top areas of concern for carers, which result in carers exiting from the system and cautioning potential carers from joining.  The legislation review is underway and a draft bill is imminent. Prioritising this topic allows for timely feedback.

**Meeting 3**  
**4/06/2024**

**Therapeutic supports for children and young people**  
**Support for carers**  
**Communication to and from carers**  
**New respite policy implementation**  
**Sibling connections**

Rationale After addressing the Minister's top priority topic, these other key topics have been included for the following meeting.

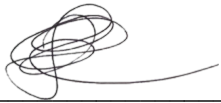
Respite was chosen for this meeting, rather than an earlier meeting as DCP are now finalising a respite policy that will be implemented prior to mid-2024. The Carer Council will be able to provide feedback on the implementation of the policy by this time.

**Meeting 4**  
**17/09/2024**

**Workforce consistency and training**  
**Cultural connections**

Rationale These are the two additional priority areas identified by the Members. As they are additional topics, they have been scheduled for the final meeting of the 12-month term.

On behalf of the Carer Council:



Lorraine Joy  
Carer Council Chair



Fiona Endacott  
CEO, CF&KC-SA