

Queensland Carers Advisory Council Communique – July 2025

The Queensland Carers Advisory Council (the Council) met on 22 July 2025.

The meeting was Chaired by Jim Toohey (Chief Executive Officer, Carers Queensland) and attended by Carer representatives Melissa Williams and Dr Nancy Spencer as well as Grandparent carer representative, Slawka Bell. Organisational representatives Louise Faulkner (Wellways Carer Gateway) and Irene Clelland (Arafmi) were also present. The Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety (DFSDESCS) (the department), Queensland Health and Office of the Public Guardian were represented.

Council noted content of the final report from Deloitte Access Economics on the carer data and service mapping project, commissioned by the department on behalf of the Council. This work will inform the Council's advisory role to the Minister to advance the interests of Queensland carers.

The Council also noted a report by Little Dreamers Australia regarding engagement with young carers in the design of government policy and programs that support Carers. The Council noted the importance of this work and agreed that further work to engage young carers should be a priority.

The Council was updated on the progress of Queensland Government disability reform processes. The Council was informed of ongoing work on foundational supports, the impact of NDIS pricing adjustments and an update on Disability Royal Commission recommendations. The Council also received an update on the Queensland Stakeholder Engagement and Co-design Strategy guiding implementation of disability reforms.

The Council was updated on the process and estimated timeframes for review of the Carers Recognition Act 2008 and the Queensland Carers Charter. The legislative review is a key priority for the Council under the Queensland Carers Action Plan 2024-26 and the Council is a key partner in supporting and informing the review.

The Honourable Amanda Camm Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence attended the meeting. The Minister noted various intersections with carers across her portfolio areas of Child Safety, Disability Services, Seniors and Community Recovery. The Minister acknowledged the social and economic contribution of carers and the importance of the carer economy in the delivery of human services. The Minister indicated her support for review of Queensland's carer legislation noting various government processes need to be followed before such a review can commence.

The Council discussed priorities for their 2025-26 workplan noting that further work to engage young carers is a priority for this financial year. Council agreed to allocate funding to support consultation for review of the carers legislation if it proceeds. Projects endorsed by the Council for delivery will be funded from the annual budget allocation of \$150,000 for projects that advance the interests of carers.