

## Queensland Carers Advisory Council Communique – July 2024

The Queensland Carers Advisory Council (the Council) met on 8 July 2024.

Fritha Radyk (Chief Executive Officer, Carers Queensland) chaired the meeting. Carers attending the meeting were Slawka Bell, Melissa Williams and Dr Nancy Spencer, with Natalie Bird noted as an apology. Organisational representatives Irene Clelland (Arafmi), Robynne Cooper (Anglicare, Central Queensland) and Louise Faulkner (Wellways Carer Gateway) attended, with the Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services, Queensland Health and Department of Education also represented. Office of the Public Guardian was not represented at this meeting.

The Council received an update on the Queensland Government response to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Review and Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability. A brief update on development of the National Carer Strategy was also provided.

Further discussion of this significant reform agenda focussed on identifying opportunities for the Council to advocate and inform reforms as they relate to unpaid carers. This contribution will form a significant focus of work for the Council over its 2024-26 term, alongside other priority issues which were discussed.

Members discussed the draft Carers Action Plan 2024-26. Projects to progress the actions outlined in the plan will be further developed with \$150,000 available in 2024-25 and 2025-26 to support their delivery.

The Council received advice on the outcomes of the Carer Business Discount Card Research Project and expansion of the 'Care is Everywhere' campaign website (hosted by Carers Queensland) with both projects now finalised. Next steps to progress recommendations of the Carer Business Discount Card Research Project were discussed.

The Honourable Charis Mullen, Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs attended the meeting.

The Minister thanked the Council for its work to progress the Carers Action Plan 2024-26 and noted that it highlights the opportunity for Council to strengthen its advisory role in its current term.

The Minister agreed that Council has a significant role to play in providing advice on strategic issues that impact carers and the people they care for, including as part of the disability reforms.

The Minister also highlighted the importance of the Council's advice on key issues such as the significant disability reform agenda and through the development and implementation of the National Carer Strategy.