

## Communique – November 2023

The Queensland Carers Advisory Council met on 10 November 2023, the sixth meeting of its 2022–24 term.

Ms Deidre Mulkerin, Director-General, Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services (the department) chaired the meeting.

Ms Slawka Bell (Deputy Chair), Ms Natalie Bird, Ms Melissa Williams, Dr Nancy Spencer, Ms Debra Cottrell (Carers Queensland), Ms Robynne Cooper (Anglicare, Central Queensland) and Ms Katie Acheson (Arafmi) attended the meeting. Queensland Health, Queensland Education and Office of the Public Guardian were also represented.

The Chair welcomed members noting this was the final meeting for this term of the Council which expires on 31 January 2024. The contribution of all members was noted, in particular Mr Adam Campbell (Wellways) who resigned from the Council effective October 2023 and Ms Debra Cottrell (Carers Queensland) who was an inaugural member of the Queensland Carers Advisory Council upon its establishment in 2009 and has been a member through every term of the Council since. The contribution of the member from the Department of Education was also recognised with a new representative to join in 2024.

Updates on remaining projects from the Council work plan were noted with members confirming delivery of an enhanced campaign for Grandparents Day in 2023 (29 October 2023) and production and release of a grandparent carer video as a resource to assist grandparent carers to access supports and services. The grandparent carer video available is available for viewing at [Raising grandchildren | Seniors | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](https://www.qld.gov.au/raising-grandchildren-seniors).

A project considering areas of the *Queensland Carers (Recognition) Act 2008* that may need review will be finalised early in 2024.

Members also discussed priority issues for action in 2023-24 to advance the interests of Queensland carers. Further work will occur to refine the scope and costings of the following projects to:

- build on the success of the 2023 'Care is Everywhere' campaign to further raise awareness of the diversity of carers, the people they care for, the social and economic value of carers, and services available to them;
- research opportunities to enhance the Carer Business Discount Card program to make it more valuable to carers; and
- consider actions to recognise and address issues experienced by working carers.

The Council also received a briefing on the Disability Royal Commission Final Report that outlined key findings of the Royal Commission and summarised key recommendations. The requirement for Australian states and territories including Queensland Government to respond by 31 March 2024 was noted. Council members welcomed any opportunities to contribute to reforms following the Royal Commission, NDIS Review or other review processes within the disability sector.