

## **Relevant recommendations re kinship care from reviews/inquiries**

### **Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry 2013**

*The Commission believes two responses are required to improve the rate of recruitment and retention of kinship carers, both in the Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. Firstly, kinship care should be provided under a stand-alone framework, instead of being treated as a subset of foster care (p259).*

#### **Recommendation 8.3**

That the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services build on efforts already begun to articulate the uniqueness of kinship care and its importance as a family-based out-of-home care placement option so that kinship carers feel they are part of the care team.

#### **Recommendation 8.4**

That the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services engage nongovernment agencies to identify and assess kinship carers.

### **Commonwealth Government Senate Inquiry - Grandparents who take primary responsibility for raising their grandchildren 2014**

There are 18 recommendations re grandparents caring for grandchildren, most of which could be extended to all kinship carers. Have included most relevant below:

#### **Recommendation 6**

8.17 The committee recommends that the Australian Bureau of Statistics:

- include a question, or set of questions, in the Census of Population and Housing, commencing in 2016, to identify those households in which kinship carers have primary responsibility for children or young people, and the carer's relationship to that person; and
- begin compilation of a longitudinal dataset for grandparent-headed families, with a view to identifying relevant support and service needs, including for grandparents caring for grandchildren with disability and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander grandparents raising grandchildren.

#### **Recommendation 9**

8.22 The committee recommends that state and territory governments consider:

- extending foster care allowances to grandparents who are raising their grandchildren without orders from a court exercising family law jurisdiction or care and protection jurisdiction; and
- investigating means of facilitating contact arrangements between children in grandparent-headed families and their birth parents.

#### **Recommendation 11**

8.25 The committee recommends that the Australian Government, in co-operation with state and territory governments, examine increased and more certain funding for voluntary support groups which provide peer support to grandparents raising grandchildren to better facilitate the establishment, maintenance and operations of such groups.

### **Recommendation 17**

8.36 The committee recommends that the COAG:

- explores options for providing informal grandparents raising grandchildren with access to legal assistance (including legal representation) in relation to the care arrangements for the grandchildren;
- affirms support for the Commonwealth's Informal Relative Caregiver's Statutory Declaration, with a view to implementing a consistent means of recognising informal grandparents raising grandchildren within and across jurisdictions.

## **Commonwealth Government Senate Inquiry – Out of Home Care 2015**

### **Recommendation 34**

10.90 The committee recommends that COAG include in the third action plan (2015-2018) of the National Framework a project to develop and implement nationally consistent financial and practical (including training and case-worker) support for statutory and informal relative/kinship carers. This should include:

- establishment of a national peak body for relative/kinship carers;
- accreditation and training of relative/kinship carers;
- increasing allowances available to relative/kinship carers; and
- evaluation and development of nationally consistent best practice models of supported relative/kinship care.

### **Recommendation 36**

10.93 The committee recommends that COAG include in the third action plan (2015-2018) of the National Framework a project to better support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in relative/kinship care, including:

- streamlining accreditation and assessment process for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kinship carers; and
- implementing the Winangay kinship resources to improve relationship between carers and child protection authorities.

## **Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse 2017**

### **Recommendation 12.8**

Each state and territory government should adopt a model of assessment appropriately tailored for kinship/relative care. This type of assessment should be designed to:

- a. better identify the strengths as well as the support and training needs of kinship/relative carers
- b. ensure holistic approaches to supporting placements that are culturally safe
- c. include appropriately resourced support plans.

### **Recommendation 12.17**

Each state and territory government should ensure that:

- a. the financial support and training provided to kinship/relative carers is equivalent to that provided to foster carers
- b. the need for any additional supports are identified during kinship/relative carer assessments and are funded
- c. additional casework support is provided to maintain birth family relationships.

**Queensland Family and Child Commission - Keeping Queensland's children more than safe: Review of the foster care system 2017**

**Recommendation 15**

the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services chooses and uses a standard carer assessment tool that:

- includes specific resources for assessing foster carers and kinship carers
- addresses cultural issues for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers and culturally and linguistically diverse carers

**Recommendation 28**

the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services develops a training program specifically for kinship carers:

- recognising the unique and varying nature, culture and challenges of kinship care
- with flexible delivery modes (for example, online modules, attendance by video link, or one-on-one delivery methods)
- requiring all kinship carers to begin the training within six months of their first placement

**Recommendation 32**

the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services works with non-government partners to develop and implement measures to increase support and supervision for new carers during their first 12 months as carers.

The measures must recognise the differences between the support needs of foster carers and kinship carers