

TOWARDS RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT FOR ALL FAMILY CARE / KINSHIP CARE FAMILIES

AIMS:

- ➔ to improve the life circumstances of children in informal and formal (statutory) kinship care and their carers;
- ➔ to ensure children's rights are upheld; and
- ➔ to reduce the need for children in kinship care to enter the child protection system solely to access services.

WHAT WOULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR KINSHIP CARERS

- access to information
- help to navigate the system
- understanding trauma
- financial and practical support
- educational supports
- connection to others (peer support)
- legal advice
- having a voice

AGREED ACTION

Establish a Queensland Family Care / Kinship Care Working Party to coordinate strategy

Strategic partnership with SNAICC, QATSICPP, and / or other community controlled representation to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led response for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

Inclusion of kinship carers in Commonwealth Carer Recognition Act 2010

Census modifications to enable data collection

Equity of support from the Commonwealth for all kinship carers - Centrelink benefits and allowances for all kinship carers not just grandparents

Family tax benefit to follow child not carer

Allowance like foster care for informal carers (E.g. NZ model)

Exemption for carers from mutual obligations

Stand-alone framework for kinship care, not a subset of foster care

Pilot support service

Establish mechanism for authorising informal kinship carers to undertake parental responsibilities such as apply for medicare card and enrol child in school (E.g. Commonwealth kinship carer statutory declaration)

National Family Care / Kinship Care Peak Body

National Family Care / Kinship Care Week

National program of specific supports for children in informal kinship care (E.g. Casework, family mediation, support for family contact, counselling and other brokerage funds to meet identified needs)

ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES

National and State / Territory Children's Commissioners and Guardians

Parliamentary Friends of grandparents carers

Ministers across State/Territory and Federal jurisdictions

Influence the new National Child and Family Wellbeing Plan 2021 (COAG)

Local MPs - government and opposition

Reference relevant recommendations from Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry 2013, Senate Inquiries Grandparent Care 2014 and Out of Home Care 2015, Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse 2017 and Queensland Family and Child Commission Review of Foster Care System report 2017