

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

## IN NATIONAL AND STATE SOCIAL POLICY AND IN ACCESS TO BENEFITS AND SUPPORT SERVICES

### COMMONWEALTH INCOME SUPPORT AND RELATED PAYMENTS

- Equitable support for all family carers / kinship carers
- Change grandparent focus to include all kinship carers
- Increase accessibility / eligibility
- Seamless federal / state interface

### NATIONAL APPROACH TO FAMILY CARE / KINSHIP CARE

- Voice of family carers / kinship carers
  - National Strategy for family care / kinship care
  - National consistency
  - National data collection / census
  - Influencing policy and practice change
  - National network of stakeholders
  - Collection of research and evidence base
  - One stop shop for all information, resources and services
    - Telephone
    - Online
    - Face to face
- ) Advice and support

### NEW MODEL FOR FAMILY CARE / KINSHIP CARE

#### CLEAR DEFINITIONS

- Ensuring appropriate cultural authority to identify kin
- Non-related carers to be identified accurately (i.e. not as kin)

#### RESEARCH

- Best practice models of supporting family care / kinship care
- Family care / kinship care outcomes

#### EQUITABLE SUPPORT FOR ALL FAMILY CARERS / KINSHIP CARERS

- Children only enter statutory care when they require protection from harm, not just to enable access to services

#### ACCESS TO SPECIFIC SUPPORTS FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND CARERS

- Pro-active prevention and early intervention and support
- Flexibility in intensity
- Financial support
- Family relationships and family contact
- Therapeutic and specialist supports
- Physical and mental health
  - Education
  - Time out / respite
- Legal issues
- Peer support groups

#### DATA COLLECTION

- Number of children in family care / kinship care
- Kinship relationships
- Formal / informal
- Order types including family law
- Indigenous status

- Distinct from foster care
- Design and delivery of a specific Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Kinship Care program
  - Family support approach (whole family system)
  - Tailored assessment e.g. Winangay and training
  - Improved implementation of five elements of Child Placement Principle
  - Improved practices and processes for family mapping / family finding
  - Enhance voice of child, family and carer
  - Services related to family care / kinship care delivered by ACCOs and NGOs
    - Adequate regional and remote services

### OPPORTUNITIES TO ADVOCATE FOR FAMILY CARE / KINSHIP CARE SPECIFIC NEEDS AND ISSUES

#### COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENTS (COAG)

- Agreement on family care / kinship care
- Successor plan for National Framework for protecting Australia's children currently under development

#### SENATE INQUIRY INTO THE ADVOCACY OF INCOME SUPPORT AND RELATED PAYMENTS

- Currently occurring

#### QUEENSLAND HUMAN RIGHTS ACT 2019

- Shift to 'rights based' approach

#### ROYAL COMMISSION INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

- Recommendations specifically relating to kinship care (recs 12.8 and 12.17)

#### QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION ACT REFORMS

- Enshrinement of all five elements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle (focus on early support and family placement)
- Current proposal to broaden purpose of Act to include 'wellbeing' of children, which fits for kinship care

#### QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT SUPPORTING FAMILIES CHANGING FUTURES

- New plan for second half of the 10 year family support and child protection reform process - one of the key focus areas is redesigning the placement and care system overall to better meet the complex needs of children in care, and alongside this is a commitment to better assistance and support for carers

#### QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT CURRENT REFORMS TO BLUE CARDS

- Led by the Department of Justice and Attorney General

#### CURRENT DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW OF FOSTER AND KINSHIP CARER ASSESSMENT AND TRAINING

- Consultants Encompass and Paul Testro

#### POTENTIAL TO ENHANCE FUNCTIONS OF EXISTING FOSTER AND KINSHIP CARE SUPPORT LINE

#### POTENTIAL OPTIONS TO EXTEND 'TIME FOR GRANDPARENTS' PROGRAM

- Funded by the Department of Communities

#### CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS TO ADDRESS ACCESS TO NO / LOW COST FINANCIAL LOANS, RENTAL ACCOMMODATION ETC.