

Queensland Carers Advisory Council

Meeting Communiqué

4 November 2019

The Queensland Carers Advisory Council met on Monday 4 November 2019 to discuss a range of issues affecting carers. This was the final of three Council meetings held for the year.

Meeting participants included carers, Teresa Pilbeam (Deputy Chair) and Semah Mokak-Wischki, and organisational representatives, Debra Cottrell (Carers Queensland), Kaylene Moore (proxy for Centacare), Donna Shkalla (UnitingCare) and Irene Clelland (Arafmi). The Departments of Education, Justice and Attorney General, and Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (DCDSS) were also represented. Apology was noted from Queensland Health.

Ms Clare Webster, Assistant Advisor, Office of The Honourable Coralee O'Rourke MP, Minister for Disability Services and Seniors, attended the meeting to represent the Minister and hear carers' perspectives on current issues.

Chairperson advised that Council Member Ms Kirsty Buckley had resigned as she was relocating, and acknowledged her contribution as a grandparent carer. The position will be filled through the recruitment of the next term of Council in 2020.

Guest speakers from Disability Connect Queensland (DCQ) in DCDSS attended the meeting to provide an update on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and an overview of the *NDIS Family and Carer Outcomes* report. DCQ attend NDIS meetings coordinated by the Commonwealth Government and have the opportunity to raise any issues of concern.

DCDSS gave an overview of the:

- submission on behalf of the Minister to the *Inquiry into aged care, end-of-life and palliative care and voluntary assisted dying* that focused on elder abuse prevention and awareness, safeguards for end-of-life decisions, young people in residential aged care, and the shortfall of supported disability accommodation
- departmental support for people who are or may be experiencing elder abuse
- department's elder abuse awareness campaign held in June each year
- 6th National Elder Abuse conference
- *National Plan to Respond to the Abuse of Older Australians* where the Queensland Government is working with States and Territories to implement the plan.

The Ageing Revolution gave a presentation on the Care Journal app and how it can support carers in their caring role.

The work plan activity focussed on the existing carer data and demographic information sourced from Commonwealth Government data, and identification of any additional data that would be useful if it was collected. Feedback from Council members included: capturing the number of young carers under 15 years of age; exploring the definition of a carer; ages of household members that are impacted by the caring role; infographic of carers in Queensland; and post carers.

Discussion was also held on how carer data and demographic information could be made more accessible. Feedback included: how data is received; creating narrative stories; demystifying the carer label; shifting the public perception of caring being a feminised role; and discussion about who is responsible for data collection.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 2020.