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IMPORTANT UPDATE

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INFORMAL CARERS FINALLY RECOGNISED

The Dept. of Communities Tasmania has undertaken a review of informal kinship care arrangements completed in November 2020. The government accepted all eight recommendations. Kin Raising Kids is incredibly grateful to the Minister, Roger Jaensch for his efforts in bringing about this groundbreaking recognition. This will include the development of a service to deliver practical assistance, advocacy support, help to navigate programmes and to ensure access to assistance to which informal kinship carers may be eligible.

Informal Kinship Carers being recognised!

The eight (8) recommendations are:

1. Establish and pilot an Informal Kinship Care Support and Liaison Service
2. Expand the eligibility of the Grandchildren Living with Grandparents Program
3. Expand the availability of training and awareness raising programs
4. Improve the availability of information and resource material for informal kinship carers
5. Review relevant Child Safety Service Client Files
6. (a) Explore government policy options and definitions that might be available to improve access to informal kinship carers, who are the responsible adults and have primary care responsibilities to meet the needs of children in their care, to improve support in:
(b) Consider options for extending criteria to existing Government programs to improve the Government's support to informal kinship carers, including:
7. Consider changes to the Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997
8. Continue national advocacy

On 16th March 2021 in his State of the State address to Parliament, Premier Peter Gutwein recognising informal carers, it was claimed Covid support was given to informal carers, when in fact they received nothing in the way of stimulus benefits.



Hopefully the above will more than make up for this oversight.



Above: Minister Roger Jaensch and some members of KRK including Secretary Frank Tyers, Immediate Past President Ross Henderson, Senior Vice President Lee Courto and President Garry Love during recent discussions on behalf of Kin Raising Kids

During the recent election campaign, a KRK delegation met up with the Shadow Minister, Sarah Lovell, the Greens Leader, Cassy O'Connor and the Independent for Clarke, Sue Hickey, to seek unified support particularly for Informal Kinship Carers as this whole review proposal progresses through parliament.



Grace Card concept and meeting with Minister Roger Jaensch;

The Companion Card although not as broad reaching as our proposed Grace Card concept, does offer some benefits not available presently to many kinship carers. Again, with the Covid-19 crisis this has been delayed, but not forgotten. Further discussions with Minister..... watch this space.

Ongoing Meetings with Leanne McLean, Commissioner of Children and Young People.

Following our latest meeting with the Commissioner, KRK is proposing to meet with the National Children's Commissioner, Anne Hollonds, when she is in Tasmania in mid-July.

Information provided to Jacqui Lambie's Burnie Office;

Following a meeting with Jacqui at her Burnie office, KRK is continuing to provide kinship carers stories, concerns and updates for her to take to Federal politicians. The Covid-19 crisis has caused delays, but we will ensure it is not forgotten.

KRK will meet with The Smith Family who have indicated a desire to assist Kinship Carers . The wonderful work the Smith Family does is well known to you all.

**KIN RAISING KIDS TASMANIA IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATION
LOBBYING FOR ALL KITH AND KINSHIP CARERS STATEWIDE. WE ARE ALL
VOLUNTEERS WHOSE EXISTENCE RELIES TOTALLY ON GOODWILL AND
DONATIONS.**



KRK has been working with the Association of Children with Disability (ACD) on a range of issues that will provide ongoing support to all kinship carers.

Coming together is the beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.

Without action there are no results.

Another huge help to us in presenting submissions for support and assistance is the inclusion of your stories. The details of these stories remain strictly anonymous, but they certainly grab the attention of recipients when accompanying submissions.

We believe approximately 80% of all Kinship Carers in Tasmania are ‘informal’ carers. When lobbying to our State or Federal Government regarding this we need to produce facts. Governments are swayed by numbers so the more members we have the more intently they will listen. Membership is **FREE** and we strongly encourage you to join. Your name and other personal details will be kept strictly confidential. If you are already a member, please encourage others to join KRK.

For the benefit of the vulnerable children and young people for whom we care, children should be kept safe and supported with family members wherever possible, which has proved more successful than other forms of care.



So, please let us have your story to help in our fight to obtain the same benefits and support for every child who for whatever reason is unable to live with its parents. If you have a story for us, please forward it to the address at the beginning of this newsletter, or, alternatively ring our Publicity Officer, Wendy Roberts on 64287274 or 0407 550 669, who will write it for you. We would love to hear from you and please be assured that no names will be divulged or any details in your story that you wish to be withheld. Stories can also be a beneficial part of a healing process. Please give it some thought



To all grandparent, kith and kinship carers, we are listening to you; we represent you and the problems you are experiencing.