

Established, governed and managed by Kin Raising Kids (Tas) for kinship carers



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NEWSLETTER

June 2023

Welcome to another update.

Kin Raising Kids Tasmania Inc committee has been working hard to meet our organisational mission statement ***“To encourage and support kinship carers, including grandparents raising grandchildren, who are the primary carers of diverse family and kin. The group offers peer support, advocacy, information and referral services to member kinship families throughout Tasmania.”***

Informal Kinship Care Tasmania Governance Group

Gary, Lee, Frank and John have participated in the Informal Kinship Care Tasmania Governance Group meetings which was an outcome of the Informal Kinship Care Review. The Informal Kinship Care Governance Group was formed to oversee recommendations 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the review. The group consists of representative from:

- Kin Raising Kids Tasmania
- Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC)
- Mission Australia
- Bapcare
- Foster and Kinship Carers Association of Tasmania (FCAT)

Mission Australia and Bapcare have been funded to address:

- Recommendation 1: Establish and pilot an Informal Kinship Care Support and Liaison Service.
- Recommendation 2: Expand the eligibility of the Grandchildren Living with Grandparents Program.
- Recommendation 4: Improve the availability of information and resource material for informal kinship carers.

Foster and Kinship Carer Association of Tasmania:

- Recommendation 3: Expand the availability of training and awareness raising programs.

These recommendations are partly addressed as part of the Tasmanian Carer Action Plan 2021-24.

Communities Tasmania completed the Informal Kinship Care Review and in 2021 the Tasmanian Government allocated \$500 000 to immediately commence implementation of the review recommendations over the next 12 months. Under the 2021 Election Commitment – Ensuring the Safety and Wellbeing of Children and Young People, the Government is extending supports for informal kinship carers with an additional \$1.75 million over four years. Supports will include:

- A support and liaison officer in the North-West.

- Government concessions for informal kinship carers,
- New training opportunities for informal kinship carers,
- An information portal for informal kinship carers.
- Increased brokerage for the new Informal Kinship Care Program.
- Community based respite services for informal kinship carers.

If you have any thought on how to improve Informal Kinship Care support in the state, please contact one of the Kin Raising Kids Committee members.

Review of the Tasmanian Carer Action Plan

With the review and development of the Tasmanian Carer Action Plan going forward, we would like some feedback on how the government could meet the other recommendations from the Informal Carer Review.

Recommendation 6: Examine policy options to improve support.

6A. 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:

- Education and schooling
- Health and professional counselling; and
- Household and travel expenses.

6B. Consider options for extending criteria to existing Government programs to improve the Government's support to informal kinship carers, including:

- Ticket to Play Program to children living in informal kinship care arrangements.
- Concessions on the cost of Tasmanian Government services including electricity, water and public transport.
- Relevant training available to informal kinship carers.
- Companion Card to informal kinship carers, entitling informal kinship carers and children in their care to free tickets at participating venues and events; and
- Quarantine a portion of funding for community-based respite services for informal carers.

The new Tasmanian Carer Action Plan will be reviewed and developed by the end of the year, if you have any actions which you feel need to be included, please contact one of the Kin Raising Kids Tasmania Committee members.

All your responses will be kept confidential.

National Advocacy

Recommendation 8: Continue national advocacy.

"Tasmanian Government Ministers and Officials continue to utilise national forums to actively advocate for kinship care including prioritising the following key recommendations from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Senate Enquiry (2014):"

Unfortunately, this has not happened, this is mainly because we are a small volunteer group and are unable to continually remind the parliament and the executive government to keep this on their agenda. I know there are many

kinship carers out there who have tried to advocate for their individual situation, this can become difficult as you are doing it alone. We would like to see a national voice and support for kinship carers. Gary, Lee and Frank have been working on this with our national stakeholders. Soon we will be participating in a meeting with the Federal Parliamentary Friends of Grandparents being organised by a respected academic researcher regarding kinship care in Australia. If we could have a little success in Canberra as we have had with Tasmanian parliament things should change for the better. On a side note, we cannot do this without your support and stories.

Tasmanian Carers Recognition Act 2023

Tasmania is the last state to introduce a Carer Recognition Act and as a result Kin Raising Kids Tasmania and with our allies were able to advocate for a more inclusive bill to include all carers who provide care without payment. The first reading of the bill did not include kinship carers. Kin Raising Kids Tasmania wrote to parliament to include kinship carers as an identified group in the bill. We would like to acknowledge the Tasmanian parliament that they accepted our suggestion and the bill passed with kinship carers included. We would like to note very few Governments will make changes to their own bill once it is introduced and the Tasmanian Government was flexible enough to make a change to include us. The Bill was passed in February. See below parts of the **Carer Recognition Act 2023 (Tas)**

Section 3.

The objects of the Act are –

- (a) to formally recognise, promote and value the significant contribution of carers in the Tasmanian community; and
- (b) to enact a Carers Charter and a Tasmanian Carer Action Plan; and
- (c) to set out the obligations of Agencies to monitor and report in relation to the Carers Charter and the Tasmanian Carer Action Plan.

Section 4. Interpretation

In the Act, unless the contrary intention appears –

carer means a person who provides unpaid care and support to a family member, or friend, who –

- (a) has disability; or
- (b) has mental ill health; or
- (c) has a chronic or life-limiting condition; or
- (d) has alcohol or other drug dependence; or
- (e) is frail or aged; or

(f) is a child, if the person is an informal kinship carer of the child;

Carers Charter means the Carers Charter set out in [Schedule 1](#) ;

child means a person under 18 years of age;

Section 11

- (a) the administration of this Act is assigned to the Minister for Community Services and Development; and
- (b) the department responsible to that Minister in relation to the administration of this Act is the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

SCHEDULE 1 - Carers Charter

[Section 5](#)

1. Carers should be acknowledged as diverse and are to be treated as individuals with their own needs within, and beyond, their roles as carers.

2. Carers should be consulted in relation to the development and evaluation of policies and programs, and the provision of resources, in so far as those policies, programs and resources affect their role as carers.
3. Carers should be empowered to access information and services that are relevant to them in their role as carers.
4. Carers should be supported to participate in, and contribute to, the social, political, economic and cultural life of Tasmania, if they so desire.
5. Carers should be recognised and respected for their valuable caring role and should be supported in accessing, and engaging in, a wide range of services to ensure their well-being and to maintain their connections to their community.
6. Carers' knowledge about the persons for whom they are caring should be respected, acknowledging that each carer, and each person being cared for, has both rights and responsibilities.
7. Carers should be able to raise concerns about decisions, and services, that affect them as carers or the persons for whom they are caring, without the carers or such persons suffering adverse repercussions, and those concerns should be dealt with as promptly as is reasonably practicable.

Fundraising

Jan, Tonya, Gary, Frank and others have been busy trying to raise money to support Kin Raising Kids Tasmania efforts and we thank you for your financial support, without it we would not be able to do the things we do. We have been successful in receiving some small grants from the federal government and we are waiting on the outcome on some application from philanthropic foundations.

Improving Governance with ACD Tas

Thanks to the Association of with Children with Disabilities Tasmania, we have been able to work on our governance. Thanks to Janet we have a governance manual and will be meeting at Campbell Town in June to work on our next strategic plan. One of our gaps in governance is representation from the North and South of the State. We are looking for people with a lived experience of kinship care with other skill they could bring to the organization. If you are interested, please make contact.

😊 From little things big things grow 😊

Remember your annual subscriptions are now due. Go to our Website www.kin4kids.org.au to access the membership form.

VALE TONY WALTERS

TONY WAS KRK'S JUNIOR VICE-PRESIDENT, APPOINTED IN 2018 AND HELD THE POSITION PRIOR TO HAVING TO STAND DOWN WITH HEALTH CONCERNS. HE PASSED AWAY IN THE BURNIE HOSPITAL ON THE 17TH MAY AFTER A LONG FIGHT WITH HEART AND BLOCKED ARTERY ISSUES. A COMPASSIONATE HUSBAND, FATHER, FRIEND AND LOVING KINSHIP CARER, LEAVING BEHIND WIFE ANNE AND A BIG HOLE IN AN EXTENDED FAMILY. TONY WAS BURIED IN THE BURNIE LAWN CEMENTERY ON THE 25TH MAY 2023.

A modification to recognise kinship carers as 'carers' in Commonwealth legislation?

A carer is an individual who provides personal care, support and assistance to another individual who needs it *or full-time care to that person's dependent children who need it* because that other individual:

- (a) has a disability; or
- (b) has a medical condition (including a terminal or chronic illness); or
- (c) is frail and aged; or
- (d) has a mental illness; or
- (e) has another condition causing significant parental incapacity.*



FREE TRAINING

Expression of interest are being sought for Free online courses being advertised on TAFE's Website on the 15th June.
<https://www.tastafe.tas.edu.au>

Find Help Tas is a new way to find support services in your region to meet your family's needs.

<https://www.findhelptas.org.au/>

FindHelp |

TAS

ABS Review of Census Topics



In 2018, the following topics were considered for inclusion in the Australian Census:

- chronic health conditions and smoking status
- journey to education
- Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander cultural identity
- current or previous service in the Australian Defence Force
- non-binary sex and/or gender identity
- sexual orientation
- **more contemporary measures of household & family relationships, including shared care of children.**

**Next Review of
Census Topics is
due in 2023.**

Carers Tas will be conducting consultations with informal carers around the state, please keep an eye out for the date, time and place on our Facebook page and theirs.



Without action there are no results.



**National Foster Care
Conference
21st - 23rd
September
2023**



Wrest Point Casino
410 Sandy Bay Road, Sandy Bay
Tasmania

Finding the Care in Caring

Foster and Kinship Carers Association Tasmania formally invite anyone wishing to submit an abstract for presenting at the conference or holding a workshop to do so by emailing Kim at ceo@fcatas.org.au

Submissions close on Tuesday, May 30th at 5pm. All submissions will be heard by a panel of board members and successful presenters will be informed by Tuesday, June 20th.

When considering your submissions please adhere to the following guidelines: Submissions must include a separate biography, be no more than 500 words, and be in line with the four themes of the conference:

- Mental health
- Well-Being
- Culture
- Trauma

Thank you

<http://fkat.org.au/conference/>

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. 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



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.

Leadership Group development with ACD is being undertaken to include a broad spectrum of participants from differing parts of Tasmania. Results to date have been reported as quite successful.

Coming together is the beginning. Keeping together is progress.

Working together is success.

Current Committee

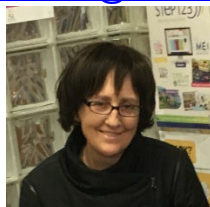
President - Gary Love

president@kin4kids.org.au



Vice President – Lee Courto

Lee.courto@kin4kids.org.au



Secretary _ John Flack

secretary@kin4kids.org.au



Treasurer – Tonya Walker

treasurer@kin4kids.org.au



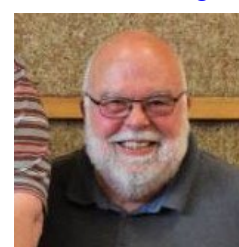
Past President – Ross Henderson

ross@kin4kids.org.au



Ordinary Board Member – Frank Tyers

frank@kin4kids.org.au



Ordinary Board Member – Jan Savage

jan@kin4kids.org.au



Communication Committee – Jan, Frank, Lee and John

Finance Committee – Tonya, Jan, Ross and John

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