



SUPPORTING TASMANIAN CARERS

Tasmanian Carer Action Plan
2021-2024
2022 REPORT

Reporting for the period 1 January to 31 December 2022

RECOGNITION

No.	Action	Agency	Status update as at 31 December 2022
I.1	Consult on and introduce Carer Recognition legislation including a review of carer principles and governance structures.	Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC)	<p>Consultation was held throughout the second half of 2021 and informed the development of the draft Carer Recognition Bill 2022 (the Bill). This included feedback on the carer principles which were updated and simplified and are now reflected as a Carers Charter in the Bill. Under the Bill, all Tasmanian Government agencies will have legislative obligations to report annually against the Carers Charter and the Tasmanian Carer Action Plan.</p> <p>Governance structures were also considered throughout the consultation. The Minister for Community Services and Development has elevated the Carer Issues Reference Group to the Minister's Carer Advisory Council which the Minister will Chair. Membership of the Council includes five carers with lived experience, representatives from the Tasmanian and Australian Governments, Carers Tasmania, and Mental Health Families and Friends Tasmania.</p> <p>Consultation on the draft Bill was held in April and May 2022 and the Bill was introduced into the Parliament on 15 June 2022. On 24 November 2022, the Bill passed unanimously through the House of Assembly.</p>
I.2	Establish Carers Week small grants program.	DPAC	<p>The Tasmanian Government's Building Stronger Communities policy commits \$60,000 over three years (\$20,000 annually from 2021-24) to give more organisations the opportunity to deliver events, celebrate National Carers Week, and increase awareness of services available to carers. The 2022-23 program was open from 16 May to 15 August 2022 with grants available in two tiers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tier one: up to \$2,500 for projects that support the health and wellbeing of carers; and • Tier Two: up to \$500 for events to celebrate National Carers Week or for community events for carers. • A total of 11 projects were funded in 2022-23.
I.3	Investigate options for an annual Carer Forum.	DPAC (and the Carers Issues Reference Group)	<p>The Minister for Community Services and Development hosted an LGBTQ+ themed forum in November 2022. In collaboration with Working it Out, feedback suggested that a smaller 'Round Table' style discussion was more appropriate for the audience than a larger style forum.</p> <p>The Round Table provided attendees the opportunity to share their experiences as an LGBTQ+ carer or care recipient and contribute to solutions to address issues.</p> <p>Feedback from the forum will assist to ensure carer's voices are considered in the development of Tasmanian Government policy and programs.</p>

Reporting for the period 1 January to 31 December 2022

No.	Action	Agency	Status update as at 31 December 2022
I.4	Review Carers Week activities to identify opportunities to increase recognition and awareness of the role of carers.	DPAC	<p>The Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) wrote to all Tasmanian Government Heads of Agency encouraging them to promote and participate in Carers Week during 16 to 22 October 2022.</p> <p>Carers Tasmania hosted a suite of carers week activities with a gala morning tea on Tuesday 18 October 2022 at Wrest Point Casino. The Minister for Community Services and Development attended a media opportunity to assist with promotion of the event. The Tasmanian Government also assisted Carers Tasmania to light the Tasman Bridge in the colour teal to promote awareness of carers.</p>
I.5	Investigate options to include carer recognition in Communities Tasmania's annual grant programs.	DPAC	Options to include carer recognition and needs in the planning for and targeting of small grants rounds was discussed with the Communities Tasmania Grants Unit in 2021.
I.6	Consult carers in the Review of the Disability Services Act 2011.	DPAC	<p>Carers were identified as a specific stakeholder group for the Review of the <i>Disability Services Act 2011</i> (DSA) and were included when framing the consultation design.</p> <p>Consultation with all external stakeholders, including carers, has been undertaken by external consultant Annie Curtis. Feedback from the consultant noted that carers were well represented in the consultation activities. The DSA Review Community Consultation Report is published on the DPAC website: www.dpac.tas.gov.au.</p> <p>Carers Tasmania provided a written submission to the DSA Review which has been incorporated into the DSA Review Consultation Outcomes Report also published on the DPAC Website.</p> <p>After careful consideration of the DSA Review and the feedback from the community, the Tasmanian Government has committed to draft new legislation, rather than amend the existing Act.</p> <p>The consultation outcomes of the DSA Review have been analysed to inform drafting instructions for the new legislation and it is expected that the draft Bill will be available for consultation in 2023.</p>

Reporting for the period 1 January to 31 December 2022

ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION

No.	Action	Agency	Status update as at 31 December 2022
2.1	Pilot a digital literacy program for carers through Libraries Tasmania.	Department for Children, Education and Youth People (DECYP)	<p>Libraries Tasmania collaborated with Care2serve to pilot a digital literacy program for carers at the Burnie and Rosny libraries in 2021. Care2serve provided free android tablets to carers who then attended a range of Libraries Tasmania digital skills sessions to develop their confidence in using this technology. There was close to 100 attendances in a range of library programs including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email basics • Internet basics • Connecting to others • Android basics. <p>Carers who attended reported they were satisfied with the course sessions, the targeted support they received and what they learned. While the pilot did result in some benefits, further roll-out was not pursued.</p>
2.2	Review the Housing Connect application process to ensure carers are identified and included.	Homes Tasmania	<p>Review has been completed. The Social Housing Assessment Form has been updated to include questions about carers. This was a result from Carers Tasmania providing a submission towards the consultation on the Draft Housing Bill in July 2022.</p> <p>Carers are identified and included in social housing applications in two ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As a member of the application household. A permanent live-in carer can be included in the bedroom allocation in addition to the primary applicant/s. The carer's eligibility, income and assets would be considered as part of the household applying for social housing. 2. Identified as not living within the household but a bedroom may be allocated to the carer where overnight stays are required. The carer's eligibility, income and assets would not be considered as part of the application process. <p>Discretion can be considered in relation to eligibility, income and assets and would be assessed on an individual basis.</p>
2.3	Review the TSS Workplace Flexibility Policy to support employees with caring responsibilities.	DPAC	<p>A draft Workplace Flexibility Policy has been developed, however work on this was paused as COVID-19 had an impact on how workplace flexibility is viewed and what that means for the future.</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government response to the State Service Review has determined a reform program over five years, with the work plan for flexible employment priorities scheduled to commence from December 2023 for 18 months.</p> <p>In line with Recommendation 61 of the State Service Review, SSMO has developed a draft short set of principles for TSS employees to work away from the office, drawing extensively on existing arrangements and resources and taking into consideration benefits and cautions to provide a consistent underlying basis for individual agency policies.</p>

Reporting for the period 1 January to 31 December 2022

No.	Action	Agency	Status update as at 31 December 2022
2.4	Maintain and enhance flexible working arrangements in State government agencies, including the Carer Toolkit.	DPAC	Any enhancements to flexible working arrangements will be included to the toolkit. The toolkit will be reviewed to ensure it reflects the flexible work principles referenced in 2.3.
2.5	Implement the outcomes of the State Service Review as they relate to employees with caring responsibilities.	DPAC	The final State Service Review was released in July 2021. There were no outcomes that directly related to carers, however flexible work principles that will benefit those with caring responsibilities will be developed in Stage 2 as outlined in 2.3.
2.6	Review the Tasmanian Consumer and Carer Participation Framework to improve engagement with consumers and carers.	Department of Health (DoH)	Tasmania's Consumer and Carer Participation Framework specific to Mental Health is being reviewed during 2023. This work is being led by the Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Directorate (MHADD) under Rethink 2020, Tasmania's overarching mental health plan. Project due for commencement March 2023.
2.7	Support distribution of the Carers Tasmanian iCare book in THS hospitals.	DoH	The iCare books were made available to social workers in THS hospitals. Carers Tasmania has provided these to other relevant community organisations and sending one to each carer upon registering with Care2Serve. The booklet will be updated in 2023 funded through Care2Serve/Carer Gateway.
2.8	Develop clinical guidelines for working with carers.	DoH	Work is being undertaken to develop a process for disability carers in hospital, as well as a governance mechanism and risk assessment.
2.9	Develop referral pathways for patients and carers to Aboriginal health and migrant support organisations.	DoH	<p>Additional project officers for the Aboriginal Health Liaison Service are established or being established in all regions consistent with the Improving Aboriginal Cultural Respect Across Tasmania's Health System Action Plan 2020-2026. This will support ongoing relationship building with local Aboriginal community-controlled health services and communities, including strengthening referral pathways for patients and carers to Aboriginal community-controlled organisations on discharge from hospital.</p> <p>Multicultural Health Liaison continues to engage with providers around the state, including through the Migrant Support Network.</p>

Reporting for the period 1 January to 31 December 2022

LEARNING

No.	Action	Agency	Status update as at 31 December 2022
3.1	Develop targeted information and referral resources for learners with caring responsibilities.	DECYP	DECYP incorporated an 'Identified as a Carer' vulnerability indicator on the online Case Management Platform (CMP), which was launched in September 2022. The purpose of the CMP Vulnerability Management Module is to provide an efficient process for capturing, managing and sharing student vulnerability information across the agency by relevant staff, including School Support and Wellbeing Team Leads.
3.2	Promote resources for young carers to DoE learners, schools, and support staff.	DECYP	This action item will follow on from Action 3.1 and will include a plan to promote these resources to learners, families, schools, and support staff.
3.3	Implement the Adult Learning Strategy to support carers to engage or re-engage in learning.	Department of State Growth	<p>Priority Three of the Adult Learning Strategy includes supporting people with barriers to engaging in Learning. The Training and Work Pathways Program provides grants to eligible individuals or organisations to undertake targeted activities that address specific disadvantages impacting people accessing and participating in training and employment, which include caring responsibilities.</p> <p>In the 2022 grant round, Skills Tasmania funded eleven projects, one of which included people with caring responsibilities as a specific disadvantage.</p>

If you are deaf, have a hearing impairment or have complex communication needs, phone the National Relay Service on 13 36 77 or the Speech-to-Speech Relay Service on 1300 555 727.

Department of Premier and Cabinet

Phone: (03) 6232 7556

Visit: www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/cpp/community-policy-and-engagement_carer_policy_and_action_plan

