

Information for Applicants

Purpose

The Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships is seeking nominations for membership of the Queensland Carers Advisory Council (the council) for the next two-year term commencing in 2021. The council is established under the [Carers \(Recognition\) Act 2008](#) and members are appointed by the Queensland Government to advise the Minister for Seniors, Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships on work to promote the interests of carers and make recommendations to support carer recognition.

The council consists of members from a diverse range of backgrounds (individual carers and carer support organisations) that have a strategic focus on advancing the interests of carers and promoting compliance with the [Queensland Carers Charter](#). Activities of the council include:

- attendance at all meetings
- providing advice on carer-related issues
- consultation with other carers and carer organisations
- other activities as directed by the Minister.

In between official meetings, held three times per year, members may be invited to contribute to out-of-session consultations or working groups to address particular issues.

Members who are unpaid carers or unpaid representatives of carer organisations will be remunerated for attendance at official council meetings and are reimbursed for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses associated with participating in official council meetings in accordance with the [Remuneration Procedures for Part-time Chairs and Members of Queensland Government Bodies](#).

Eligibility

Nominations for the council are invited from Queensland residents who have an understanding of carers and their families, a strategic focus on carers' issues and strong networks and involvement in their community. The following roles are available:

- four carer representatives (one must be a grandparent carer)
- three representatives from organisations that support carers
- one representative from an organisation that supports grandparent carers
- four representatives from Queensland Government departments.

The [Carers \(Recognition\) Act 2008](#) (the Act) specifies the council's membership as follows:

- A carer is an individual who provides, in a non-contractual and unpaid capacity, ongoing care or assistance to another person who, because of disability, frailty, chronic illness or pain, requires assistance with everyday tasks.
- A grandparent carer is a carer of their grandchild if the child lives with the grandparent and the grandparent is the primary care giver.



All carers and organisations that support carers are encouraged to nominate including:

- carers in rural or remote areas,
- young carers, older carers, grandparent carers,
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander carers,
- carers with disability,
- carers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds,
- carers of diverse sex, gender and sexuality.

It is not possible to nominate someone else for membership, however, if you know someone who would be a suitable representative, please make them aware of this opportunity and encourage them to apply.

Role of Members

Members are appointed for a period of two years. The functions of the council are to:

- (a) work to advance the interests of carers and promote compliance by public authorities with the carers charter,
- (b) make recommendations to the Minister on enhancing compliance by public authorities with the carers charter,
- (c) provide general advice to the Minister on matters relating to carers,
- (d) carry out other functions as directed by the Minister.

Selection Criteria

Members will be appointed on the basis of their:

- personal experience as a carer or, for organisational representatives, experience in working in an organisation that supports carers,
- demonstrated awareness of the diverse issues and concerns of carers,
- demonstrated contributions to community initiatives and good community networks,
- demonstrated ability to represent the interests of carers.

A selection panel will consider nominations against these selection criteria. Applicants may be invited to an interview. Recommendations will be made to the Minister and Premier of Queensland for endorsement. All successful and unsuccessful nominees will be advised in writing.

How to apply

- Completing and submitting the online nomination form at:
<https://www.communities.qld.gov.au/community/carers/queensland-carers-advisory-council>
- Or, printing the nomination form, completing it and sending it to:
OfficeForCarers@communities.qld.gov.au and
- Attaching a curriculum vitae/resume outlining your relevant experience (no more than two pages).

If submitting your nomination online or by email, we will accept your nomination form without a signature. If your nomination is successful, you will need to provide proof of identity and a signed copy of the form.

If you would prefer to send a hard copy nomination, please mail it to:

Queensland Carers Advisory Council Recruitment

Seniors, Carers and Specialist Disability Services

GPO Box 806

Brisbane QLD 4001

Nominations close at 5pm on Friday 21 May 2021.

For more information about the recruitment process, and nomination for membership, please email OfficeForCarers@communities.qld.gov.au or call Fiona Martin on (07) 3097 8446.

Queensland Carers Charter

The Queensland Parliament recognises that carers make a significant contribution to the people they care for, which benefits the economic and social wellbeing of the whole community. Carers deserve recognition, respect and support for their role, including grandparent carers, who make a significant contribution to the lives of their grandchildren.

All Queensland Government departments and statutory bodies must promote and support the principles of the Queensland Carers Charter, when providing services and supporting staff.

The *Carers (Recognition) Act 2008* establishes the following **Queensland Carers Charter**:

1. The State recognises the effort and dedication of carers in our community and that carers provide a vital service.
2. Carers deserve the respect of our community and should be supported within their community by all levels of government, institutions and organisations.
3. The views and needs of carers must be taken into account together with the views, needs and best interests of the people they care for when making policy decisions.
4. The importance of carers' work means the role of carers should be recognised by including carers, or their representative bodies, in the assessment, planning, delivery and review of services affecting carers.
5. Complaints made by carers in relation to services that impact on them must be given careful consideration.
6. Carers should be recognised:
 - (a) for their unique knowledge and experience and
 - (b) as individuals with their own needs.
7. The relationship between a carer and the person they care for should be respected and honoured.
8. Children and young people who are carers should be specifically supported by all of our community.
9. The caring responsibilities of children and young people should be minimised.
10. Grandparents who are carers for their grandchildren, after having raised their own children, should be supported in their important and challenging role.
11. Grandparents who are carers for their grandchildren need easy access to information that is clear and relevant to their role as a carer.
12. Carers need access to a wide range of responsive and affordable services to support them and their decision making in their role as a carer.
13. Remote and rurally based carers face additional difficulties caused by isolation.