



Carer Council

Member Spotlight Kerry Rochford | Carer Council Member

Background

Kerry is a new member of the Carer Council, appointed in December 2025 filling a position as a regional kinship carer.

What type of care do you provide?

My husband and I have been kinship carers for just over 12 years.

How did you become a carer?

We were asked to take five of our grandchildren into our care.

What are some of your fondest memories of caring?

It has been a joy and a challenge watching the children grow, learn, and thrive. To be able to experience nurturing a baby through to the pride of seeing the eldest complete high school and step into university and become a successful triathlete has been particularly wonderful.

What experiences and skills do you have that will be useful to the Carer Council's work?

My role in education led me to gaining experience in working with disadvantaged youth and the support required to enable them to achieve their educational goals and develop a sense of pride in their abilities. I have extensive experience in research and through studying law, I am able to understand legislation and government systems. I have been a member of a number of councils through education and art and have worked on advisory panels in the past.

Can you share something about yourself outside of caring?

I worked in education prior to taking on this caring role and have continued to pursue my study interests in literature. I am a practicing artist specializing in textile art and I am an avid reader and writer. I am also interested in and passionate about the environment and the bird life where I live.

What are your hopes for the Carer Council?

I was thrilled to be included in the Carer Council for this year. I believe that it is critical for carer's to be listened to as the front-line workers in this field. I hope to be able to contribute to the council based on my 12 years of experience.

From your experience, what are some of the areas that need addressing in child protection?

I believe that the child protection system has a strong advocacy focus for the children and young people in care but that the concerns of carers have been minimised leading to some frustrations and disappointments. The children in care are best known by their carers and often their needs and opinions are shared through the carers. Listening, discussing and then acting on those needs in a timely fashion, therefore contribute to the wellbeing and progress of the children and young people.