



Carer Council

Member Spotlight

Lisa Petersen | Carer Council Member

Background

Lisa was appointed to the Carer Council in December 2025 as a metropolitan-based foster carer. She provides long-term care.

How did you become a carer?

I have been considering, planning and preparing to become a long-term foster carer for many years. My journey began when I worked in Residential Care over a decade ago and met many children, who I felt, would thrive in a long term, stable foster home. From there I decided I wanted to become a foster carer and provide a forever home to a child. I have now been providing long term care for almost 2 years.

What are some of your fondest memories of caring?

Witnessing the connection form between my foster child and their biological mother and siblings. My fondest memory to date is being able to transition from in office supervised visits with their biological mother to informal visits in community which I facilitate. Building a positive relationship with my foster child's biological mother, siblings and the siblings foster carer has been my biggest joy, to see the connection and happiness in my foster child's eyes when we are all together and making positive memories.

Can you share something about yourself outside of caring?

I enjoy reading/audio books, op shopping/thrifting, good coffee and spending time in nature.

What are your hopes for the Carer Council?

I hope we can share our knowledge and lived experience as carers to inform change where it matters most, to support meaningful change.

I truly believe carers are experts by experience and when their voices are respected and valued, can create better systems, procedures and policy for children in out of home care.

I hope the carer council can work together as a group, with the Minister and the system with the shared goal of the best interests of children.

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

I have worked in the Human Services for almost a decade in a wide range of roles working with children in out of home care, supporting kinship carers, child protection diversionary and child and family support programs. I have worked within and alongside the Child Protection system and have a unique understanding both as a worker within the system, as a worker and as a carer outside the system. With this I bring knowledge of how the system works, the limitations of the system and where there are opportunities for change.

I know that we are all here for the same reason, to ensure children have the best lives they can in out of home care, they deserve nothing less.

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

Contact and connection with biological family. In my experience, when contact is predictable, with consistent workers, routines and environments, along with positive engagement from carers, workers and biological family, it creates a space where children can build a positive sense of self and identity. A starting point for this would be centring children and carers in decision making so the children's best interests are at the heart of decision making.

All children in care need to know who they are and who their biological family is in a way that is safe and positive for them.

I also believe all sibling connection should be a priority, where it is safe to do so. Currently this can be a challenge due to systemic barriers, again, centering children and carers in decision making would help address these barriers through the knowledge held by children, carers and biological families.

