



Carer Council

Member Spotlight

Tiani Harris | Carer Council Member

Background

Tiani is a regional-based foster carer Member appointed to the Carer Council in December 2025.

What type of care do you provide?

I have been a specialist carer for the past 10 years and beside my long-term carer of child, I also do respite and emergency/short term care as well.

How did you become a carer?

I had foster siblings of my own and it was natural progression to be able to open my home to children in care.

What are some of your fondest memories of caring?

My fondest memories today are watching the child I have in my care overcome challenges from everyday tasks that are minimal to us but to him are difficult to working out problem solving to achieve what he needs.

We also have been able to build a solid foundation with his biological family and from that our child has an extraordinarily strong identity of who he is and where he comes from. He feels safe and secure with all who are involved in his life.

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

I have a background in Youth Work.

Can you share something about yourself outside of caring?

I have been on a journey of self discovery and it has been a beautiful healing process. I have been doing things that go out of my comfort zone.

I love country music – huge fan of Kenny Rogers and Dolly Parton and made my husband call his two dogs Dolly and Kenny. I love camping and travelling Australia. I love being able to have these moments with my family.

What are your hopes for the Carer Council?

I applied to be on the Carer Council because I believe that I can be part of giving my voice and having open dialogue to issues that are within the foster care community. I want to be a little part in hopefully helping create more opportunities and changes within the councils. Our community needs voice and this council is giving me opportunities that I truthfully am thankful to be part of.

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

Mental health and wellbeing of carers and young people. The stigma of carers saying they are feeling burnt out and they need support without their worth being threatened is huge in our community. I would like to see more support wrapped around us to enable carers to keep doing their job and showing up for the kids.

Having more access to resources for respite care. Currently the funding and resources are not adequate for carers to access respite services.

Lastly the carer reimbursement payment. With the cost of living and how much everything has gone up in 2026 the payment is not adequate to what the reality of living in Australia and caring for a child is.

