



Carer Council

Member Spotlight

Verity Jaensch | Carer Council Member

Background

Verity was appointed to the Carer Council in December 2025 and holds a metropolitan-based kinship carer position on the Council.

What type of care do you provide?

Specialist Kinship care

How did you become a carer?

Suddenly when my nephew was removed from my younger sister. I had not seen them for almost 12 months prior.

What are some of your fondest memories of caring?

There are so many special moments. All of the firsts from losing his teeth, his first “family” holiday to being so excited at Christmas he would throw up. What I have loved the most is the special attachment that we share and how he talks about our connection to others. He refers to me as his Maunty Vee which he made up because he feels I am his Mum/Aunty. It has been so special watching him find his voice and feel safe in doing so.

Can you share something about yourself outside of caring?

I am a practicing Buddhist and practice meditation/mindfulness. I love cooking. It is like hugging people from the inside. I am quick to learn languages other than English. I am a word nerd. I enjoy public speaking. I can read music fluently. Surprisingly I have found a love for strength training and hope to start training for Hyrox competitions next year.

What are your hopes for the Carer Council?

As a collective I hope we can positively influence change in legislation, practice and policy in the out of home care sector. I hope to see better outcomes for those who find themselves involved in the system. I hope to play a part in better communication, collaboration and consistency. I am keen to represent as many carers as possible and for all carers to know what the Carer Council does.

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

- Consistency in how policy is applied
- Better communication
- Respite
- Mental health support for carers – ongoing not just 4 sessions at a time
- Superannuation for carers
- Consistency and ease of sharing information
- Making sure there is a space at the table for carers and that they are seen and treated as an important part of the care team
- I would like to see more lived experience employed within the sector.
- I would like to see kinship carers receive equal training opportunities to foster carers
- Accountability from staff when things don't go right
- Access to free legal advice and services
- More cross collaboration of agencies

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

Currently I am a tutor working with Bradford Institute of Advanced Education – I work with SA foster and Kinship carers to achieve the Diploma of Community Services. I am also involved in delivering to Life Without Barriers Mockingbird Hub leaders. This reflects the passion I have to educate carers and support them in being confident in their skills working with children and young people and their dealings with agencies and DCP.

I am a member of Life Without Barriers State and National Carer Focus groups.

I have been involved in shaping a media policy for young people in care with LWB. This was started from constructive feedback I provided after a media experience with my nephew.

I am a lived experience member of Key Assets foster carer assessment panel

Previously I worked as a manager in banking for over 22 years. I am skilled in leading teams to success. I am a confident facilitator and communicator. I have sat on many committees and working groups, from LGBTQI+ to fundraising for burns survivors.

I am particularly skilled at taking complex, big picture ideas/concepts and making them relevant to a broader audience using metaphors and storytelling.

