



Hon Lizzie Blandthorn MP

Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers
Minister for Child Protection and Family Services

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Dear Samantha and Wendy

Thank you for your letter of 20 June 2023. It's important we hear from advocates such as you regarding the current experience of carers, and opportunities to better support carers and the children and young people in their care.

As you would be aware, the Victorian Government has invested heavily through successive budgets to better support the care services system. This was continued through the 2023-24 Victorian Budget, which delivered the biggest single investment in care services in Victoria, including \$548 million over four years to deliver improved outcomes for children and young people in care.

While this investment is significant, we know there is more that needs to be done. As I indicated in my address at the recent Roadmap Implementation Ministerial Advisory Group (RIMAG) meeting, considering opportunities to strengthen and modernise home-based care is one of my priorities. This work will need to examine all aspects of this issue, to determine the suite of potential measures that are needed to attract, retain, and support the carers we need, both now and into the future. I look forward to working with you and other RIMAG members, as well as partners in the sector more broadly, to progress this work over the coming months.

Thank you for writing to me about this matter and for your continued advocacy for carers who play a critical role in our child protection system and who are accordingly highly valued.

Yours sincerely

Lizzie Blandthorn MP

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cc: The Hon Tim Pallas MP, Treasurer