



## Department of Health and Human Services

### CARER ADVISORY GROUPS

#### *Do you...*

- ...have an interest in improving the kinship care and foster care experience for children and carers
- ...have an understanding about some of the challenges carers face in your area?
- ...would you like to promote caring to the broader community?

***If this sounds like you then you may be interested in joining a  
Carer Advisory Group***

#### **What are Carer Advisory Groups?**

Carer Advisory Groups have been established to bring together foster carers, statutory kinship carers, community service organisations, peak bodies and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to help create a stronger home-based-care system in your division and across Victoria.

#### **What will Carer Advisory Groups do?**

Carer Advisory Groups will provide foster carers and statutory kinship carers with the opportunity to participate in consultation and comment on topics or issues to help inform decisions that impact carers, children and young people in care; to help improve the caring experience.

#### **How will Carer Advisory Groups work?**

Carer Advisory Groups have been established in each of the four Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Divisions; North Division, South Division, East Division and West Division.

Carer Advisory Groups meet quarterly in each division. The Carer Advisory Group is co-chaired by a DHHS Director or senior Manager, alongside a nominated carer. There are approximately 20-25 members in each group and membership is for one term (2 years) with the option of a second term pending available places.

#### **How are Carer Advisory Group members selected?**

An expression of interest application is the precursor to be considered for membership. The application is an opportunity to demonstrate your interest in carer issues, and what you think you can bring to the Carer Advisory Group. If there are a greater number of carers interested in participating in the group, applications will be considered based on the limitation of numbers.

#### ***West Division - Carer Advisory Group membership applications are now open***

If you have any questions regarding the West Division Carer Advisory Group or the application process please contact Sandie Mitchell, Children and Family Strategy, Office of the Deputy Secretary, West Division at [Sandie.Mitchell@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:Sandie.Mitchell@dhhs.vic.gov.au)