

Parents and Carers Reference Group Meeting 2

Thursday 10 April 2025

Communique

The Parents and Carers Reference Group (PCRG) held its second meeting virtually on Thursday 10 April 2025.

The meeting was opened by co-Chair Ms Letitia Hope, Deputy Secretary, Department of Social Services before handing over to Ms Jacqueline Hrast, Acting Group Manager, Children and Families, representing Ms Hope. Ms Hrast, alongside co-Chair, Mr Jamie Crosby, Chief Executive Office of Families Australia, facilitated the remainder of the meeting. The meeting was attended by 15 PCRG Members, including 11 parents and carers and 4 representatives from peak body organisations.

As the meeting was held during caretaker period leading up to the 2025 Federal Election, discussion focussed on administrative matters, including minor amendments to the Terms of Reference, and matters to be considered for inclusion in the PCRG's forward workplan for 2025. Members noted an interest in discussing how to ensure services are accessible and responsive, how to support families to navigate the service system and the importance of wellbeing and mental health supports for families. Members also noted an interest in discussing opportunities to grow the evidence base on what constitutes an effective and high-quality parenting support program.

On behalf of all Australian Governments, Deloitte Access Economics presented to the PCRG, seeking members' views on Deloitte's planned consultation approach to effectively consult with parents and caregivers as part of an upcoming public consultation on enhancing child safety in early education and care, stemming from the recommendations from the 2023 Review of Child Safety Arrangements under the National Quality Framework. Members provided feedback on the communication materials and approaches. A particular focus of the discussion was on engaging parents and carers who may be hard to reach or time poor and how to present technical information in a simple and accessible way.

Meeting attendees

Department

- Letitia Hope (Co-chair), Deputy Secretary, Families and Communities, Department of Social Services
- Jacqueline Hrast, Acting Group Manager, Children and Families Group

Peak body representatives

- Jamie Crosby (Co-chair), Families Australia
- Prue Warrilow, Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY)
- Gretchen Young, SNAICC – National Voice for Our Children
- Georgie Dent, The Parenthood

Parent and carer representatives

- Sara Barker, NT
- Eve Buckley, VIC
- Sarah Copland, VIC
- Sarah Cummings, NSW
- Nicole El-Hage, VIC
- Wendy George, WA
- Carly Grubb, QLD
- Kristy Jones, TAS
- Ravi Krishnamurthy, ACT
- Tomasi (Tom) Ramanumanu, VIC
- Malinda Savage, QLD

Officials / advisers

- Janaya Cox, Acting Branch Manager, Early Childhood and Parenting Wellbeing Branch
- PCRG Secretariat

Guests

- Deloitte Access Economics
- Queensland Department of Education
- Department of Education