Grandcarers SA

Position Statement of Grandcarers SA on the Carer Recognition (Miscellaneous) Bill 2025

Grandcarers SA is proud to be the only organisation in South Australia dedicated to supporting full-time informal kinship carers (Grandcarers). We have worked to make sure their voices are heard and recognised in government and community conversations.

Legislative Context

For many years we have been calling for changes to the *South Australian Carer Recognition Act 2005*, which fails to recognise informal kinship carers. At present, the Act only covers people caring for someone with a recognised disability, chronic illness, or a diagnosed mental health condition, leaving out those providing essential primary care to children who do not fulfill those conditions.

In December 2023, Grandcarers SA lodged a submission to the Government's review of the Act recommending that the definition of Carer includes informal kinship carers (See Review-of-the-SA-Carer-Recognition-Act-2005-Submission-by-Grandcarers-SA-14-December-2023.pdf)

The Government's Review Report in May 2024 supported this change with a recommendation that the definition of 'Carer' include, *"persons who provide personal care, support or assistance to a child or young person, if the person providing the care, support or assistance is the primary informal kinship carer of the child or young person."* : Report-on-review-of-Carers-Recognition-Act-2005-SA.pdf

However, when the draft *Carer Recognition (Miscellaneous) Bill 2025* was released for consultation in July, that recommended inclusion was missing. We again raised our concerns about this by making a second formal submission. (See GrandcarersSA-Submission_Carer-Recognition-Miscellaneous-Amendment-Bill-Submission_14-July-2025-.pdf)

When the updated Bill was tabled in Parliament on 15 October 2025, it did broaden the definition of "Carer" and expanded departmental responsibilities, positive steps forward, but informal kinship carers remain excluded unless the child has a disability, mental illness, or chronic condition.

Organisational Position

We support the broadening of the definition but remain concerned that many Grandcarers, providing full time care to children without these special requirements, are still overlooked.

We welcome the positive change to the amended Carers Charter which accompanies the Bill, which recognises *"the unique and complex roles of informal carers, including grandparents, siblings, family friends, Aboriginal collective kinship care and other family and kinship relationships."*

Grandcarers SA CEO, Mike Feszczak, sums it up:

"It's good to see the definition of 'carer' expand and government departmental responsibilities widen. But the Bill still leaves out Grandcarers who provide safe homes for children without a condition, as required within the wording of the Bill. Recognition in the Charter must be matched in the Act."

Ongoing Engagement

Grandcarers SA will continue to engage constructively with the Government and the Department of Human Services to achieve legislative recognition and support for all informal kinship carers, ensuring that their contribution is visible, valued, and formally acknowledged within South Australia's carer policy framework.

Enquiries relating to the above should be directed to:

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