

DCP Kinship Care Program Learning and Development Consultation Feedback for carers

What this consultation was about

The Department for Child Protection (DCP) Kinship Care Learning and Development Program has been providing specialised training for kinship carers since August 2023. The training model is designed to support kinship carers to improve their skills and confidence to keep the child in their care safe, meet the child or young person's developmental needs, and provide nurturing and healing care. We use an individualised approach to address the unique learning and development needs of kinship carers, which can be very different from those of foster carers.

The program routinely collects carer feedback on these trainings to help us continually respond and adapt.

Who we spoke to

To understand if the Kinship Care Learning and Development Program is meeting the needs of kinship carers, we heard from a total of 156 carers who attended training. This figure represents:



What we asked

The questions we asked carers aimed to help us learn:

- Whether the training sessions are meeting carers' needs and expectations
- Improvements that could be made to the content, delivery, format, and venue of trainings
- Topics of interest for future trainings.

Our approach

During the period of August 2023 – January 2024:

- 
 A hard copy evaluation form was given to all carers who attended trainings.
- 
 Anecdotal feedback provided verbally by carers was recorded.
- 
 DCP staff feedback and observations were recorded.

What you told us

The learning and development sessions are largely meeting kinship carers' needs

92% of carers either agreed or strongly agreed that the session they attended met their needs and expectations.



In their own words, they told us:

"The content was very informative and helpful. Presenters were lovely."

- Therapeutic Play

"A very good program for kinship carers, well presented."

- Staying Strong as a Kinship Carer

"Very well presented. The venue was comfortable and welcoming."

- Supporting Family Contact

"The presenter was very good at allowing people to open up and feel safe."

- Finding Your Feet as a Kinship Carer

"The presenter was great, listened and acknowledged everyone's experiences."

- Supporting Family Contact

"Discussion on the topics let me know that I'm not alone and gave me the confidence that I'm doing the right things."

- Caring for Children and Young People with Disability and Developmental Delay

Some minor changes could make sessions more accessible to carers



Carers suggested:

- Ways of promoting the learning and development program to kinship carers
- How to simplify the process of signing up to sessions
- Different ways of providing feedback
- Selecting community centred and culturally safe venues
- Selecting venues with good disability access and convenient parking
- Catering to carers' dietary needs.

Kinship carers would like training on more topics



In addition to the 9 modules currently available, carers indicated interest in the following areas of training:

- Caring for children with disability
- Managing challenging behaviour
- Transition from care
- Birth parent mental illness
- How to keep children connected to culture
- Attachment
- Grief and loss
- Technology addiction

What happens next?

In response to carer feedback, DCP has:

- Reviewed and improved the carer feedback form, and created an electronic version
- Updated all 9 training modules to reflect suggested design and content improvements
- Simplified the online registration process.

The following additional training modules are currently under development:

- Cultural awareness
- Child safe environments
- Infant safe sleeping

Scoping for additional modules and potential alternative formats for delivery is planned.

DCP sincerely thanks all who took the time to participate in these consultations and provide feedback.

We appreciate you. We hear you. We're working on improvements.