



Disability and developmental delay assessment pathways booklet review consultation

Feedback for carers

What this consultation was about

In response to recommendations made in the Independent Inquiry into Foster and Kinship Care (Arney Inquiry), DCP is developing a booklet to help explain the assessment pathways for children who may have a disability of developmental delay in a way that is easy to understand for all family-based carers. The booklet is intended to support carers to navigate these complex systems and empower them in their roles.

We wanted to hear from carers about whether the information we were drafting was clear, accessible and respectful, and if it covered all the parts of the assessment process that carers would be wanting to understand. The draft booklet used in this consultation had been developed in close collaboration with the DCP Disability and Development Program and the DCP Psychological Services team.

Who we spoke to

We sought feedback from all types of family-based carers, including:

- Foster carers
- Kinship carers
- Foster and kinship (combined) carers
- Specific child only carers
- Long term guardian (specified person)
- Respite carers.

What we asked

The consultation opportunity provided carers with a copy of the draft booklet for their review, prior to answering a series of questions. The consultation survey was focused on the following questions:

- Which parts of the draft booklet are most helpful in explaining what might be involved in the process?
- Do you think there is any information missing from the booklet?
- What do you like about the booklet?
- How would you improve the booklet?
- How would you like to access this booklet if you needed/wanted to?

Our approach



Between March 2025 and April 2025, DCP used an online survey (also available as hardcopy) to hear from family-based carers.



Carers were invited to participate in a variety of ways, including through a Facebook post and a Carer News online article. Non-government organisations (NGO), including foster agencies, were also made aware of this opportunity, with emails asking support agency staff to promote this consultation to the carers they work with.



12 carers responded to the online survey. Connecting Foster and Kinship Carers SA (CF&KC-SA) also hosted a consultation session on this topic, with an additional 8 carers in attendance. CF&KC-SA provided detailed feedback on the booklet based on comments from the carers who attended their session, and other feedback they had gathered from carers through their advocacy work.

What you told us

We heard that:



The majority of carers thought that this booklet would be helpful, or very helpful, during their care journeys.



Carers would mainly access this booklet online through the DCP website and would like hard copies available either through their DCP case workers or available at the local DCP office.

In response to carer feedback, we are updating the booklet to:

- include more information about alternate assessment pathways and what early intervention or community support options are available if the assessment process is delayed
- strengthen the messaging about the importance of the carer in the care team
- emphasise the voice of the carer throughout the assessment process and support carers to advocate for the children or young people in their care
- make the flowchart clearer, and include the steps where education staff may have a role
- revise the case studies to better highlight the role of the carer
- include clearer information about expected timeframes throughout the assessment process.

What happens next?

Feedback from this consultation is informing the final version of the booklet and ensures that the published product meets the expectations of current carers.

Upon executive approval of the final version of the booklet, we will publish the booklet online at the DCP website and provide hard copies to local offices.



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.