

## Carer Recognition Act 2021

### INFORMATION FOR FOSTER AND KINSHIP CARERS

The [Carer Recognition Act 2021](#) (the Act) establishes **care relationship principles** to respect, recognise and acknowledge the vital contribution carers make to the Canberra community. The Act explicitly includes foster and kinship care under the meaning of a care relationship.

The **care relationship principles** provide guidance to make it clear a carer should:

- be supported as an individual and as a carer, including during changes to the care relationship
- be recognised for their efforts and dedication, and for the social and economic contribution they make to the community
- have their social wellbeing and health recognised in matters relating the care relationship
- have the effect of their role as a carer on their participation in employment and education recognised and considered in decision-making.



The **care relationship principles** reflect the diversity of the carer community and acknowledge that carer needs and supports can vary with this diversity.

The Carer Recognition Act affirms that a person receiving care in a care relationship should have their rights as an individual recognised and realised.



### CONSULTATION OBLIGATIONS

The Carers Recognition Act establishes consultation obligations for 'care and carer support agencies'.

When an agency is planning or reviewing the support services and programs it provides in relation to people in care relationships, it must consult with carers receiving support services and programs and an entity representing carers.

### REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

A care and carer support agency must report on:

1. efforts to incorporate the care relationship principles in its internal human resources (HR) policies, for employees who are carers
2. measures taken to promote and uphold the care relationship principles with people in care relationships, and their employees and agents
3. consultations undertaken when planning or reviewing support services and programs in relation to people in care relationships.

ACT Together reports to the ACT Government and will publish reports to the ACT Together website when lodged.

## Part 3 (Sections 8 and 9) of the Act outlines the care relationship principles

### 8 Care relationship principles—treatment of carers

(1) A carer should—

- (a) be respected and recognised as—
  - (i) an individual with their own needs; and
  - (ii) a carer; and
  - (iii) someone with knowledge of the person receiving care; and
- (b) be supported as an individual and as a carer, including during changes to the care relationship; and
- (c) be recognised for their efforts and dedication, and for the social and economic contribution they make to the community, as a carer; and
- (d) if appropriate, have their views and cultural identity taken into account, together with the views, cultural identity, needs and interests of the person receiving care, in matters relating to the care relationship; and
- (e) have their social wellbeing and health recognised in matters relating to the care relationship; and
- (f) have the effect of their role as a carer on their participation in employment and education recognised and considered in decision-making; and
- (g) be provided with support that is timely, responsive, appropriate, respectful and accessible; and
- (h) if the carer is receiving support services from a care and carer support agency in relation to the care relationship—
  - (i) be made aware of the care relationship principles by the care and carer support agency; and
  - (ii) have their views considered in the assessment, planning, delivery, management and review of support services, programs or policies relating to the carer and the care relationship; and
- (i) if the carer is a child or young person—
  - (i) be supported to reach their full potential; and
  - (ii) be provided with appropriate support services that take into account the specific needs of children and young people; and
- (j) if the carer is an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person—be provided with culturally appropriate support services that take into account the history, health and wellbeing of the person and the person's extended family and community; and
- (k) if the carer is an LGBTIQ+ person—be provided with appropriate support services that take into account the specific and unique needs of LGBTIQ+ people; and
- (l) if the carer is culturally and linguistically diverse—be provided with appropriate support services that take into account the specific and unique needs of culturally and linguistically diverse people; and
- (m) if the carer is a person with disability—be provided with appropriate support services that take into account the specific and unique needs of people with disability.

*Note* A carer may have 1 or more of the characteristics mentioned in pars (i) to (m).

(2) In this section:

**Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person** means a person who—

- (a) is a descendant of an Aboriginal person or a Torres Strait Islander person; and
- (b) identifies as an Aboriginal person or a Torres Strait Islander person; and
- (c) is accepted as an Aboriginal person or a Torres Strait Islander person by an Aboriginal community or Torres Strait Islander community.

### 9 Care relationship principles—treatment of people receiving care

A person receiving care in a care relationship should have their rights as an individual recognised and realised.