

Minister for Child Protection SA

Direct Experience Group

Communique March 2024

Update

The Direct Experience Group (DEG) held its 2nd formal meeting on the 4th March 2024.

Updates from the meeting

Members finalised their 2024 work plan to present for Ministerial approval.

The work plan will draw on expertise of members with direct experience to understand and address the complexity of the current Child Protection system. Insights will inform actions and recommendations for reform and transformation.

Activity between the first and second formal DEG meetings enabled DEG members to refine and define work plan topics utilising a trauma informed and collaborative approach. Processes included:

- Trauma and lived experience informed safe individual story telling
- Reflection of personal priority areas
- Work plan survey
- Strategic thinking workshop – utilising impact vs effort matrix
- Strategic context mapping - utilising opportunity analysis

Based on the interest of the Minister and these processes the four key overarching areas put forward by DEG in their work plan include:

1. Post removal family connection
2. Parent Assessment and Investigation
3. System Accountability and Transparency
4. Family access to information, advocacy and parenting/ family support

At the March 4th meeting, DEG members expressed their commitment to the work plan process, recognising their unique opportunity to benefit children and families across the state. The emphasis on mutual respect and a willingness to learn from one another was a prevailing theme throughout the discussions.

As guest, Jackie Bray provided an introduction as Chief Executive for Department for Child Protection. Covering her diverse work experiences, interests and the priority areas for improvements within the department's policies and operations.

Jackie Bray's expressed a genuine openness and eagerness to engage with the DEG recognising the power of bringing together diverse viewpoints.

Importantly, there was a notable alignment between the priorities of the Minister, DEG, and DCP, indicating a shared vision for the future.

Chairperson

The meeting was chaired by Dana Shen

Attendance

The meeting was attended by: Six Core members (identity withheld)

Apologies: One core member (identity withheld)

Coopted members

- Jackie Bray – Chief Executive (Department for Child Protection)
- Rachael Dean – DEG Peer Support Worker (Life Without Barriers)
- Rebecca St Clair – DEG Peer Communication Specialist (The Reily Foundation)
- Breony Carbines – DEG Executive Office (The Reily Foundation)
- Nadia Berginetti – Chief Executive Officer (The Reily Foundation)
- Kerrie Mcann – (Life Without Barriers)

Meeting Close

The next meeting of the Direct Experience Group will be held on the 27th May 2024.

Approved Quotes

"Parents views and experiences are what can help us shape the future of a better child protection system." Nadia Berginetti, CEO The Reily Foundation.

"There is a strong willingness to bring all of these different viewpoints together to make change". Hayley, DEG Member

"These meeting are our footsteps towards change". Jess, DEG Member