

Minister for Child Protection SA

Direct Experience Group

Communique March 2025

Update

The Direct Experience Group (DEG) held first formal for 2025 on the 3rd March 2025.

Information from the meeting

The meeting was chaired by DEG Chairperson Hayley Brown, with support from Deputy Chair Jacinta Morey. The meeting was attended by nine out of ten core members, with one member needing to leave mid meeting due to personal circumstances.

Core members were given further details about the group's transition to a SA Government Board and Committee and discussed required changes to the group's Terms of Reference including privacy, out of session activities and membership tenure.

The second half of the meeting included discussions facilitated by Breony Carbines to commence 2025 Workplan. DEG members shared insights relevant to their 2025 workplan areas, Topic Area #1 **Infrastructure and staff (Access Visit focus)** and Topic #2 **Infant removals at birth**.

Other business included an update on the status of the Child and Young Person Safety (and Support) Bill 2024 provided by coopted member Nadia Berginetti.

Chairperson

The meeting was chaired by DEG chairperson Hayley Brown.

Attendance

The meeting was attended by 9 Core members in person (identity withheld)

Coopted members

- Rachael Dean – DEG Peer Support Worker (Life Without Barriers)
- Breony Carbines – DEG Executive Office/Facilitator (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 23rd June 2025.

Approved Quotes

“The first quarterly meeting of 2025 had some incredibly brave sharing and listening today from DEG members. Finding solutions to extremely challenging issues such as infant removals at birth first requires deep understanding of the problem.”

(Hayley Brown DEG Chairperson)

“Sharing experiences and talking through what has happened makes people understand the short- and long-term impacts on children, parents, their families and others involved in child protection systems. This understanding helps drive commitment to making change”.

(Jacinta Morey DEG Deputy Chairperson)