



THE CHILDREN IN CARE COLLECTIVE

We are always better together than we are apart



[CCC representatives onscreen clockwise from the left: Melissa O'Donnell, Peter Monaghan, Amy Conley Wright, Tim Reed, Simon Walsh, Ghassan Noujaim. CCC representatives in the room, from the left: Tom McLean, Anita Le Lay, Tracy Mayo, Jude Ekerick, James Isles, Lindy Annakin, Rob Ryan, Rebecca O'Sullivan, Tenille Abell, Daryl Higgins, Nicole Martin, Raquel Green]

After more than two years of online meetings, representatives of the Children in Care Collective member agencies were delighted to meet in person (with a hybrid model to accommodate some members attending online) to undertake strategic planning in October 2022.

At the forum the Collective reviewed its vision and strategies for addressing difficult systemic issues for children and young people with complex needs living in out-of-home care.

The primary focus was identifying how to achieve four key priorities including – improving the health and wellbeing of children and young people in out-of-home care, partnering with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak bodies to identify strategies to increase the number of Aboriginal children placed with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, improving support for children in out-of-home care with harmful sexual behaviours and better supporting carers of children and young people

with complex needs. These discussions will inform the development of the Collective's 2023 work plans.

Agency representatives also confirmed the value of the Collective in the opportunities it presents for collegiality and collaboration, learning from different perspectives about the challenges in best-practice service delivery and the importance of the collective voice and purpose in improving outcomes for children in care.

Rob Ryan, Chair of the Children in Care Collective said, *"It was great to connect with colleagues in person after such a long period online due to COVID. I'd like to thank our members for their commitment and dedication to building an effective and well-resourced service system that supports children and young people with complex needs to grow up safely and well in out-of-home care, confident that their rights and wellbeing are protected and prioritised. It is really clear that when we work together in partnership that we can make a significant impact on the lives of the children, young people and families we support"*.

