

## Carers Advisory Council Meeting – 21 September 2020

The NSW Carers Advisory Council met via videoconference on Monday 21 September 2020. The meeting was chaired by Deputy Chair Pam Webster.

The Council was joined by Hon. Gareth Ward, Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services, who thanked Council on their support and commitment to carers during COVID-19.

The Council raised a number of carer related issues with Minister Ward about carers including increased demands on carers during COVID-19 such as isolation and impact on long-term mental health. They also noted concerns for carers in relation to the new NDIS Independent Assessment process. Council also noted that carers need encouragement to access the Carer Gateway.

Minister Ward thanked the Council for their support and input into the new NSW Carers Strategy and acknowledged that Carers Week in October 2020 will be different due to COVID-19, but remains an important time for the government to recognise carers.

The Council received updates from the Department of Communities and Justice, NSW Health and Carers NSW.

Council reflected on their recent planning review day and plans for 2020-21.

Council will hold a short meeting in October to consider a research project on Carers Missing Out and a full meeting will be held on the 30 November 2020.