

# GPV/KCV REPORT



## ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2021- JUNE 2022



Supported by the Victorian Government



**Key words which influence GPV/KCV approaches are:  
Truthfulness, Confidentiality, Inclusiveness, Integrity, Constancy, Gratitude,  
Commitment, Compassion**



GPV/KCV acknowledges the peoples of the Kulin nation as the traditional owners of our great land and offers respect to Elders, past, present and emerging.

GPV/KCV acknowledges that the Aboriginal culture existed in Australia before European settlement and consisted of many community groups. Further, we acknowledge the Indigenous peoples of this land as the oldest continuing cultures in human history.

GPV/KCV acknowledges that laws and policies of the past have inflicted grief and suffering on our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and regrets the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families. GPV/KCV will take steps that promote a happier and healthier future for Indigenous Australians, particularly the children and young people.

GPV/KCV believes that a society that is inclusive of all is crucial to individual and community wellbeing and will behave with respect towards all irrespective of their race, religion, sexuality, gender or socio-economic background.

GPV/KCV acknowledges 13<sup>th</sup> of February as National Apology Day, the anniversary of delivery the National Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples in 2008.

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## About GPV/KCV

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In April 2001, Grandparents Victoria (GPV) was formed as an organization based on the belief that grandparents can play a valuable role in supporting and advocating for families and the wider community and promoting the value of the public sector.

At this early stage, with only four members at the first meeting, it was not clear what action the group would take, or how its activities were to be funded, but enthusiasm was high.

For the first two years, GPV focused on consultation with grandparents to learn what challenges they and their families were facing. A series of forums were also held across Victoria to collect different many opinions. Since then, regular forums and surveys have been conducted to verify these early views.

In March 2002, the issues faced by grandparents raising their grandchildren were noted, with the GPV Board deciding that the role of grandparents within child protection would be a priority area of work.

Another landmark was reached in 2004 when GPV staff attended its first local grandparents support group. This was the first of many visits to support groups across the state. In 2010 the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) awarded GPV the contract to establish Kinship Carers Victoria (KCV) as the peak group representing the views of kinship carers.

GPV/KCV addresses a wide range of issues. Some issues, aside from support for kinship carers, appear on its work program year in and year out, with family poverty being the most urgent of all the issues addressed over the years.

GPV/KCV is committed to an ethical approach to its work, undertaking to:

- maintain a commitment to its beliefs and aims, prioritising the wellbeing of families
- maintain confidentiality at all times, protecting the privacy of all who associate with GPV/KCV
- uphold individual rights and advocate for the rights of disadvantaged groups
- foster a culture of fairness

### GPV believes that:

- all children must be protected and given every opportunity and support to fulfil their potential
- the needs of families are becoming more complex and the support grandparents can offer to families in general insignificant
- grandparents and kinship carers have unique understandings and attitudes that should influence decisions about child wellbeing
- grandparents and kinship carers have a responsibility to engage in public discussions and to act to ensure the wellbeing of children

## Privacy Guarantee

GPV/KCV securely stores and manages personal information shared through all forms of communications with the organisation. No personal information is ever shared with any other agency, including DFFH or any other government agency. When survey reports are completed the personal data of participants is destroyed.

## Another Covid affected year

First identified in Wuhan, China in December 2019, the COVID virus reached Australian shores in late January 2020, and was declared a global pandemic on March 11, 2020. Aside from the ongoing travel restrictions implemented in that period there were quite severe lockdowns enforced, particularly in Victoria. Even outside these lockdown periods, ongoing gathering restrictions continued with GPV/KCV impacted by restrictions on:

- the number of attendees permitted at public gatherings
- the number of people permitted on-site in office spaces
- travel between metropolitan Melbourne and regional areas.

COVID has affected GPV/KCV work from the end of the 2019 right through to mid-2022.

Restrictions prevented face to face gatherings, especially with kinship carers who were of particular concern. GPV/KCV had to find alternative ways to maintain connections with all members and ensure that kinship carers were supported.

Telephone contact became the main method of contact, with staff spending more time than ever before on the phones. When the number of incoming calls to the office unexpectedly decreased at the beginning of the pandemic, GPV/KCV staff began a program of calling kinship carers to check on their welfare.

Since the start of Covid, Kinship Carers' Week was celebrated without the public gathering that have always characterised it. Nevertheless, a fifth edition of the *Kinship Carers' Wellbeing Magazine* was produced and distributed to carers, along with other gifts including gift vouchers.

The effects of Covid on families need no lengthy explanation here, all citizens have experienced at some level of distress. This Annual Report includes an overview of the issues raised with GPV/KCV during the course of the 2021-22 Covid period. The high numbers of kinship carers speaking of their own stress was noteworthy and can be attributed to Covid related problems.

Despite their problems GPV/KCV believes that families have been valiant and have held the community together through their stoical approach, this is partially true of the grandparents and kinship carers amongst us.

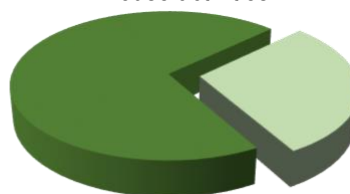
Despite the problems associated with Covid GPV/KCV has managed to deliver a comprehensive work program and to observe some important balances as outlined in the diagrams below.

Covid related work vs non-Covid related work



■ Covid ■ Other

Activities undertaken in partnership with other agencies vs GPV/KCV in-house activities



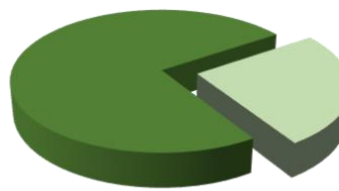
■ Partnership ■ GPV/KCV

Types of families served



■ Kinship Families ■ Families in General

Political level of activity



■ State ■ National

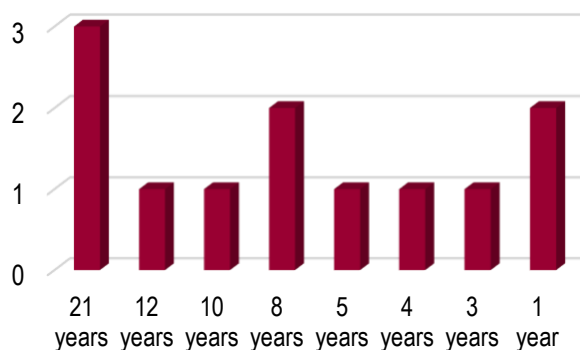
## Governance and management

### The Board

The Board members for 2021-22 were:

- Helen Brown, Chairperson
- Gedda Burke, Deputy Chairperson
- Kerry Doquile, grandparent member
- Helen Corcoran, grandparent member
- Angela Hogan, grandparent member
- Jennifer Sullivan, kinship carer member
- Jenny Cheshire, kinship carer member
- Anke Kenter, kinship carer member
- Adine Neill, kinship carer member
- Kerrie Mannix, kinship carer member
- Sandie Harbison, grandparent member
- Carole Cheng, grandparent member

Years of service of Board members



### Board Meeting Attendance

The standing orders requires each Board member to attend 75% of meetings. In this Covid affected, all Board members fulfilled at least 60% attendance rate with three achieving an attendance rate of 90%.

During this financial year two Board members suffered longer term illnesses and sought medium term leaves of absence. Both are recovered and participating.

Board meeting attendance



- Above 75% attendance
- Below 75% attendance

### Board Meetings

Despite the Covid lockdowns, and with a reliance on multimedia, the GPV/KCV managed to stage a large number of decision-making activities with 14 decision making activities being conducted on line and four face to face meetings.

Format of Board meetings



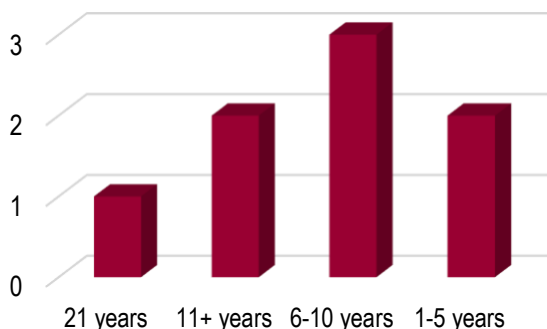
- Electronic
- Face-to-face

## The Staff

Members of the paid and unpaid staff whose task it is to deliver the outcomes defined in the work program were:

- Anne McLeish, Director
- Naomi Whyley, Administration Manager
- Megan Crowle, Project Officer
- Bradley Dawson, Communications Officer
- Alaiba Neuman, Project Officer
- Lisa Mills, Podcast Development
- Zoe McLeish, Project Assistant
- Catherine McLeish, BAS lodgement

Years of service of members of staff

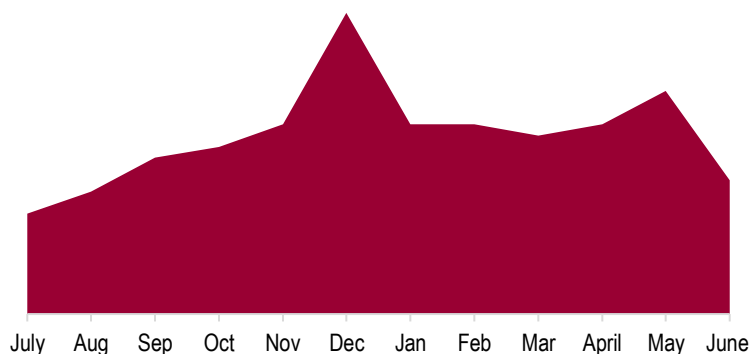


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## Staff input

The 2020-21 Financial Year was one of the busiest for staff. This pressure was, in part, caused by the extra Covid related projects undertaken with the Department of Health, but also by the staff decision to work on every day through December and January.

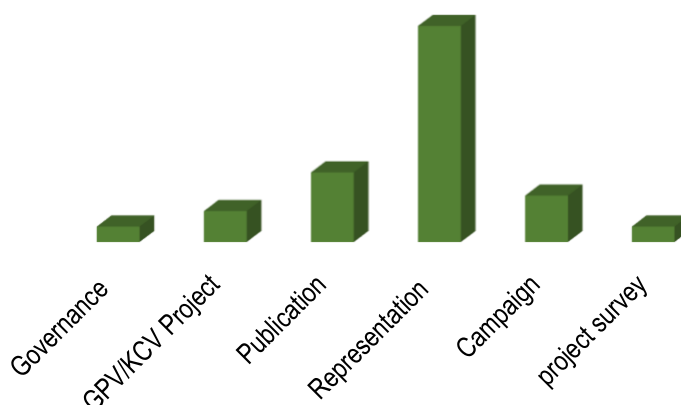
Monthly workload 2021-22



## Staff management of work

The GPV/KCV work program is delivered through activities grouped into six programs. The table at right indicates the balances of attention given to each these programs.

Types of activities undertaken



## Issues addressed

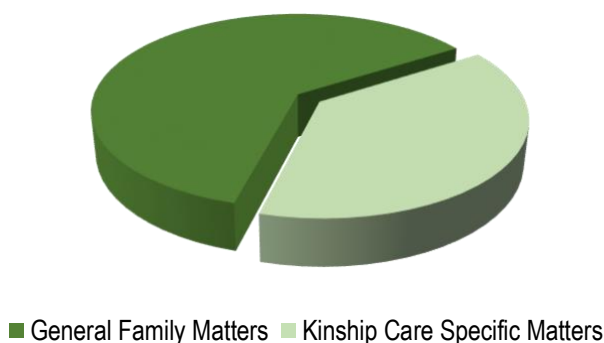
### Issues raised by the Board

The Board has made decisions related to, or discussed, a wide range of issues. They can be arranged into two broad themes, general family matters and kinship care matters.

#### General Family Matters

- Adoption Legislation in Victoria
- After School Care
- Childcare
- Coronavirus issues
- Education
- Environment protection
- Financial costs of grandparenting
- Long term planning for GPV/KCV
- Play for children with disabilities
- Support for the public sector
- The Federal Budget 2022
- The GPV History Book and luncheon
- The role of grandparents

Themes of Board decisions



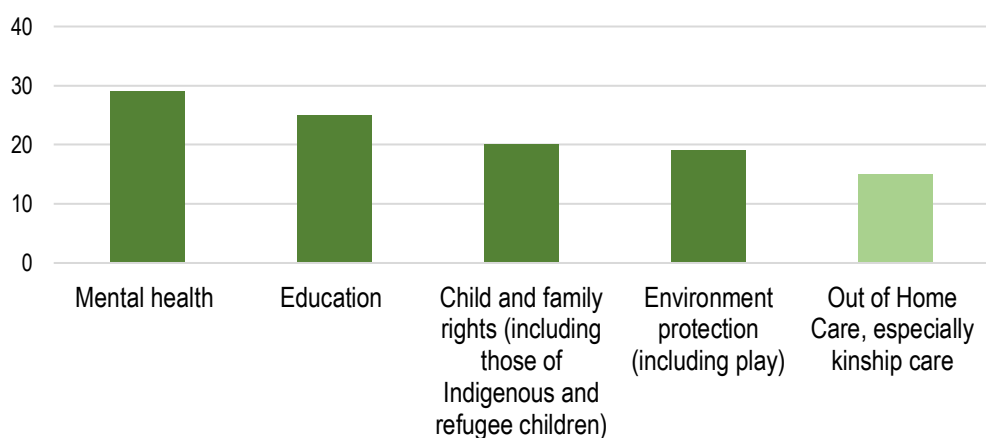
#### Kinship Care Specific Matters

- Changes to the Children, Youth and Families Act
- Children with parents in prison enquiry
- Issues arising in the Kinship Care Counselling Service data
- Kinship carers self-care
- Reunification of children with parents
- Support for kinship carers with children in residential care
- The review of permanency amendments to the Children's and Families Act
- The role of kinship care families

### Issues raised by surveyed grandparents

In the 2021 survey of grandparents designed to identify the roles they play in community and family the respondents were asked to name the most important issues affecting their families. They nominated:

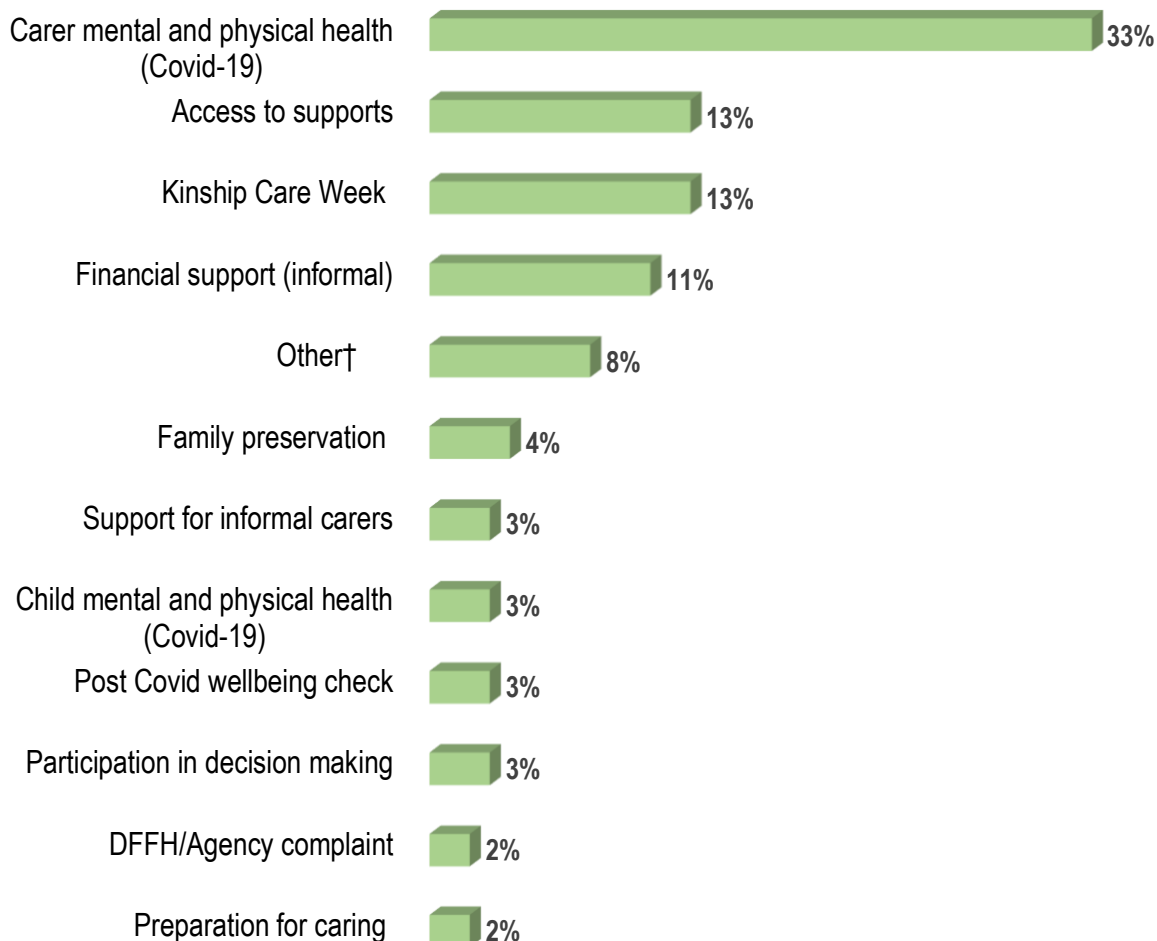
Issues identified by surveyed grandparents



## Issues raised by kinship carers

The table below indicates the types of issues raised by those who contacted KCV throughout the year – it is critical information. Despite what all other sources of information might convey, KCV places the highest faith in the stories the carers tell. The information from kinship carers is amongst the greatest influences on the many decisions about present and future work undertaken on behalf of kinship carers.

### Kinship Care Specific Matters Raised by Carers



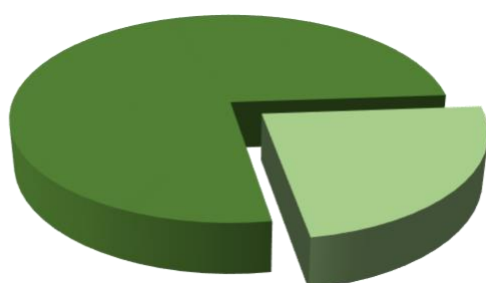
## Representation on committees and enquiries

This area of work always consumes much time and effort. In this financial year some 28 different committees were attended some multiple times. Overall, over 100 meetings were attended by GPV/KCV staff with most addressing issues related to kinship care as outlined earlier in this report. Some committee work resulted in positive outcomes. For example, the Parents Next project conducted by the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare produced a set of materials outlining the rights of parents whose children may or have been removed from them.

However, some committees are the cause of frustration because they deliberate for years with few positive results. For example, the many committees that deliberate about the needs of kinship carers have not resulted in an improvement in the level of support they receive from government. The Victorian Auditor General's report referred into kinship care (see the next section of this report) is a stark reminder of government failings in this area.

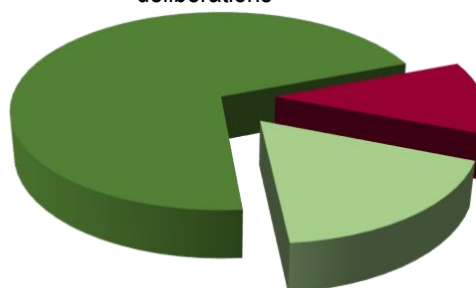
The following graphics indicate certain balances of approach across the whole of the work to represent grandparents and kinship carers on committees.

Ongoing vs new committies



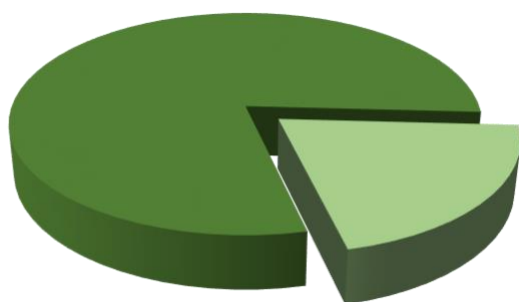
■ New ■ Ongoing

Geographical focus of committee deliberations



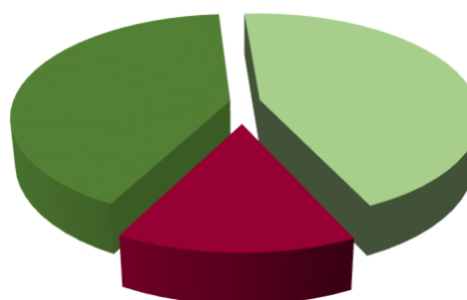
■ National ■ Regional ■ State

General family vs Kinship family related work



■ Families in general ■ Kinship families

Committies addressing policy, practice or project research



■ Practice ■ Project ■ Policy

## Kinship Care in the Spotlight

### The Victorian Auditor General's (VAG) critique of the support of kinship care in Victoria

Towards the end of the financial year the VAG released a report which exposed serious problems with the way kinship carers in Victoria are supported by the government. Just a few indicators are outlined below.

**14.2%**

This is the low percentage of kinship carers who have been checked to see if the placement is safe and meets the child's needs within 1 week of placement (Part A assessments).

**2.2%**

This low percentage represents kinship carers who have been assessed for the type of support required to provide a safe, secure and nurturing home within 6 weeks of placement (Part B assessments).

**0.9%**

The percentage of carers whereby the stability of the placement as well as child's progress, wellbeing and development reached the annual check-up target (Part C assessments).

**96%**

This is the outrageously high percentage of kinship carers who receive the lowest level of care allowance. This compares with only 32% of foster carers.

### KCV's response to the VAG report

On 23 June 2022 GPV/KCV released a substantive statement in response the VAG report. The need to do so was clear in the face of the damning proof of the poor support offered to kinship carers. However, the response was also deemed necessary in the face of some groups using the report to score points at a time when bi-partisan action is needed from the political and wider community sector. The statement made the following points.

#### KCV has the right to speak

*Kinship Carers Victoria is the agency that represents kinship carers in the public discourse and in deliberations with government, DFFH and a wide range of other decision makers who have the potential to implement change. In order to validate its utterances, KCV works close beside kinship care families, with the core of its work being the 1000 conversations had with individual kinship families every year. It is on the strength of this precious knowledge; we enter the public discourse arising from the VAG report.*

#### KCV demands a dignified approach

*Before commenting on the VAG finding it must be said that our close contact with kinship carers has had a profound influence on the way we go about the work of representing their best interests. Kinship carers go about their family business with dignity, at all times trying to save their extended family and friends as well as their immediate family from being labelled as "those poor people" and being used by some to score points in the political arena. Hence, we hope that the debate arising from the VAG report does not become an opportunity for point scoring.*

#### KCV expects a bipartisan approach

*Rather, KCV calls for a bi-partisan discussion about what we all need to do to improve matters. We need not confine ourselves to thinking within the framework of the VAG report alone. Perhaps a parliamentary procedure would give all politicians the opportunity to place their policy cards on the table, so to speak. Evidence of a bi-partisan approach to the urgent issues confronting kinship families would be welcome and the first politician to demonstrate such leadership will be applauded.*

*If all that the VAG report achieves is a "mudslinging match" it would be too much to bear, particularly given that over the years KCV and individual kinship carers have made representations to politicians and the media with barely a response to be had.*

*We have an election looming and look forward to evidence of well thought out policy related to less urgent matters beyond those addressed in the VAG report being tabled as part of the election campaign. Let the VAG report be the beginning!*

#### KCV expects the public service to be strengthened

*Whilst not wanting to dismiss any other good ideas that might be forthcoming, KCV would suggest that outsourcing any of the difficult services required to keep families safe is not a good idea. The fact of VAG report, an indeed the reports coming from other statutory authorities such as the Commissioner for Children and Young People, proves the value of a strong public*

sector that lays itself bare to scrutiny by a network of statutory authorities empowered and enabled to hold a mirror up to us all. Strengthen the public sector we say!

The VAG report is hard hitting – it highlights failures related to implementation of the new model of kinship care that are acutely portrayed and profound in their detrimental effect on families and which matched KCV knowledge closely. In fact, none of the failings highlighted by the VAG are a surprise and many are in fact already subject of discussions across the sector, including DFFH, about how to “fix things”. The highest barrier has been, and will continue to be, a lack of funding to create the positions required to implement the VAG recommendations.

### **KCV expects higher levels of financial support for kinship carers**

The most urgent failing highlighted by the VAG report is the fact that kinship carers do not receive the level of payments necessary to address the needs of the children in their care. This failing affects new carers of course, but just contemplate the accumulated hardship endured by the many kinship carers who have been receiving inadequate payments year in year out and way beyond the life of any one government.

Over the twenty-one years that KCV has been witness to kinship care we have watched successive governments, not just the current one, be warned about the hardship of kinship families – they have been warned by KCV, by previous snapshots in the media, by investigative reports too many to name, by successive Ministers, and by DFFH. Despite this Treasury processes have not met their responsibility by releasing and tagging funds for kinship carer payments. Perhaps in the next budget things will be different. In the meantime, perhaps DFFH could be awarded an emergency fund to assist the most urgent cases of kinship care families struggling to fund the needs of the children in their care. During the height of the COVID crisis the Victorian Government made an emergency payment available - time to do so again – this time specifically for kinship care families – as a gesture of good faith whilst we sort out a more systematic and enduring response that might be delivered in the next budget.

### **KCV expects better assessments by Child Protection**

The second most urgent failing highlighted by VAG is the failure of the assessment and referral procedures. There are simply not enough people employed in DFFH to do the work. We need more and much better trained case managers, urgently. The lack of staff can be attributed to government failure to provide enough funding but we the wider community need to take some responsibility as well by asking ourselves two key questions. Firstly, what price are we voters prepared pay for the wellbeing of Victoria's families. Are we prepared, for example, to forgo some roads infrastructure in favour of family wellbeing programs? Secondly, are we prepared to view those who work in child protection as being essential workers who are critical to wellbeing of the Victorian community and treat them accordingly. When KCV talks with wider community groups about our work people are sympathetic but leave the chat relieved that they do not have to deal with issues related to being a vulnerable family and feeling that an occasional donation to our cause will suffice. It will not! Until the discussion of kinship care is conducted in a context where it is clear that each citizen expects for a much larger investment in family matters then not much will change.

### **KCV applauds the trend towards kinship care**

Despite the difficulties so accurately portrayed by the VAG report we applaud the trend to place more children in kinship care. This is good news and happens as a result of government policy and DFFH practice. At no point has any kinship care family we have ever dealt with said that they would want any child placed away from their biological family. The fact that over 70% of children in out of home care are placed in kinship care needs also to be applauded and increased, we want more children placed with their family. This report must not be used as not an opportunity to quietly assume that kinship care is too costly or too hard and to place children in other forms of care.

KCV contemplates, if not looks forward to, the day when adults who have not been placed with family ask for their records to be opened and explanations about why they were not placed with family provided. This is a potential circumstance for the whole community to face up to.

### **KCV is prepared to assist**

Given that the recommendations in the VAG report have been accepted I look forward to being part of the ongoing discussions with DFFH and the government about how they are implemented. We stand prepared to continue to work in partnership with the government., DFFH and all our other sector partners in our daily shared battles to create an environment in which Victoria's vulnerable families can thrive and get on about their business with maximum support but minimal interference from the rest of us. Achieving this balance is an ongoing work of art not an exact science and the VAG report will now become central our work.

### The Role of Grandparents in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Since its foundation, GPV has made a priority of surveying grandparents to discover their views on a variety of topics. One of the subjects which has been canvassed multiple times over the years is the changing role of grandparents, both within their families and in wider society.

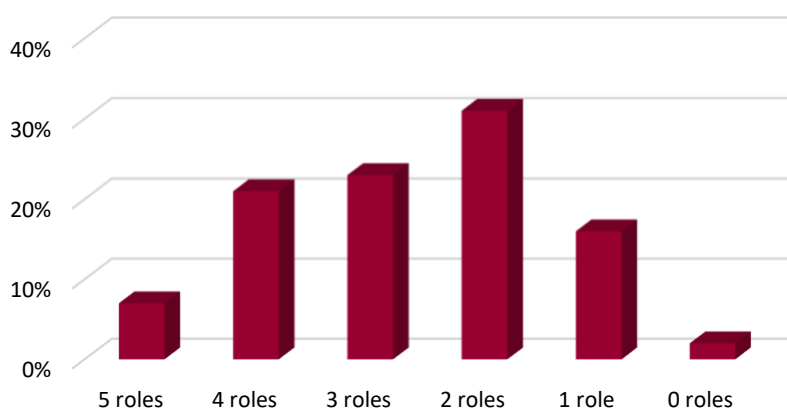
In 2021 GPV surveyed 75 respondents to determine the roles they played in their families and community. The survey identified six roles that grandparents play within their families:

1. Child care while parents attend social occasions
2. Child care while parents are working
3. Emergency or back up child care
4. Shared care arrangements with three generations living together
5. Financial contributions
6. Rearing of grandchildren 24/7

Most grandparents perform multiple combinations of these roles at any given time, often while they were still the paid workforce themselves. The table below indicates the percentage of grandparents fulfilling multiple roles at any one time.

Using ABS data GPV was able to calculate the minimum financial value of the supports offered by the grandparents in the survey at approximately \$117,678.08 per month.

**The Roles of Grandparents within their families 2022**



### Nillumbik survey

A small group of grandparents met face-to-face with GPV to discuss their role. When asked to nominate issues affecting them and their families which need urgent action the conversants listed:

- childcare and early childhood care and support – this was mentioned by all
- housing and job creation
- respite for grandparents
- financial support to cope with the costs of fuel, food, power
- mental health of parents, parenting classes
- more engagement with children by the parents
- better care to environment for generations

Solutions proposed included suggestions for local government to:

- establish camps for kids in their LGA
- host social engagements for grandparents, including an annual thankyou reception for grandparents, create a register of respite care providers for use of vulnerable families in the LGA's
- making it easier for families to install granny flats on their property

## OOHC and parents in prison survey

The upper house of the Victorian parliament instigated a review of the experiences of children in out of home care who had a parent/s in prison. In preparation for KCV testifying to the enquiry, a number of kinship carers raising children who had parent/s in prison were interviewed by KCV staff. They made the point that children were acutely aware of the circumstances of their parents and were adversely affected by it. They also made the point that in many cases the children still wanted to have contact with the parents and the carers themselves recognised that it was in the best interest in the prisoners themselves to have contact with their children. One carer who was a corrections officer reported that prisoners who had connection with their children had an increased chance of not returning to prison.

KCV made the general point to the enquiry that where visits between prisoners and their children were to go ahead, they should be conducted under much better circumstances than is the current situation. Friendly environments for access visits were absolutely necessary and yet hardly available.

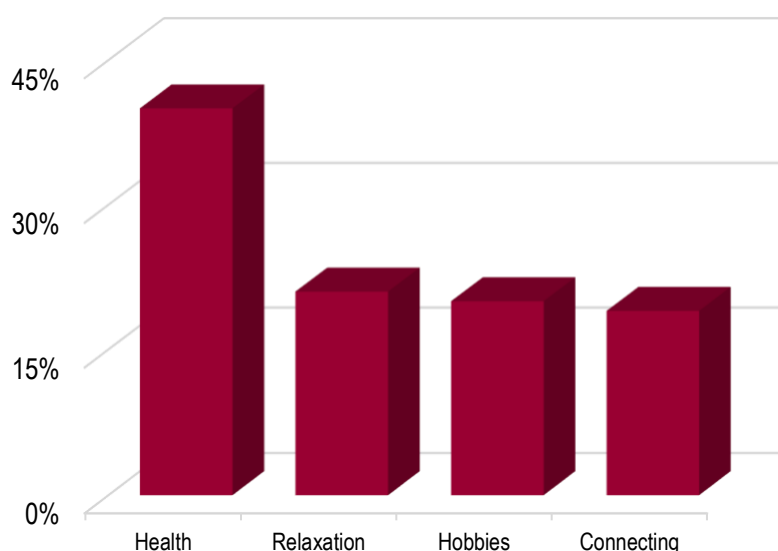
Further we argued that every prison environment should have a staff member whose task it is to work with each and every prisoner to determine if access with any children was possible and desirable, and to assist in making this happen. This is particularly needed where prisoners are in remand and have not even gone to court. There was evidence of prisoners being in remand for years and not seeing their children in that length of time.

The report of this enquiry is due to be released mid-2022.

## Self-care survey

This survey of kinship carers resulted in the formation of the KCV self-care community, an offshoot of Kinship Care Week 2021.

Between the carers interviewed they logged a total of 777 self-care activities. The percentages assigned to each activity represent the number of times across all activities and all respondents that in this particular activity occurred. This does not represent the number of carers who engaged in this activity. For example, most carers mentioned that they pay attention to their diet not all attended to it regularly.



## Projects

### Kinship Care Week (KCW) 2021

Highlights of this KCW week included:

- A record number of telephone calls to carers
- Production of a video by the Minister
- Conduct of zoom meetings with carers
- Distribution of a record number of vouchers to carers
- The production of a podcast on self-care
- The creation of a self-care community
- The production of the Wellbeing magazine #6



Despite the very difficult circumstances of this Kinship Care Week, when carers were still not able to meet face-to-face, they were grateful for the effort outlined above. Sample feedback from the carers included:

***“Brilliant, brilliant! Referred her sister to KCV to join and register for self-care community  
Your magnificent booklet. This is great, I am not surprised. I think it is really terrific.”***

***“Best magazine yet. Better self-care information than the undergraduate course she recently finished at  
Box Hill Institute than required them to create a self-care plan. KCVs is better than any students plan as  
usual – brilliant”***

***“This has helped our family already, we used some of the self-care ideas last night together.”***

***“I have listened to the last 2 [podcasts] and think they are really great. It is a really pleasant way of  
communicating with your people. I look forward to listening to the rest of them.”***

### Covid 19 Ambassadors Program

GPV/KCV received funding from the Victorian Department of Health to promote Covid prevention strategies across the community. There were two components to the work undertaken:

- a communication strategy featuring telephone conversations with carers about the value of vaccinations
- a Wellbeing Expo in Kensington Twin Hall where various health prompting activities, including vaccinations, were available



The COVID communications strategy was built on intensive work undertaken in 2021-22 financial year and involved:

**376** Individual phone conversations with kinship carers about Covid prevention strategies.

**21** Editions of the Family Care in the Time of Corona Virus Newsletter being distributed

**3**

Podcasts

- Corona virus and kinship carers
- Safety and efficacy of the Covid-19 vaccines
- DSSH responds to the Covid-19 crisis

## Covid 19 Wellbeing Expo



The following statistics tell the story of what happened on the day of the Wellbeing Expo, held in Kensington.

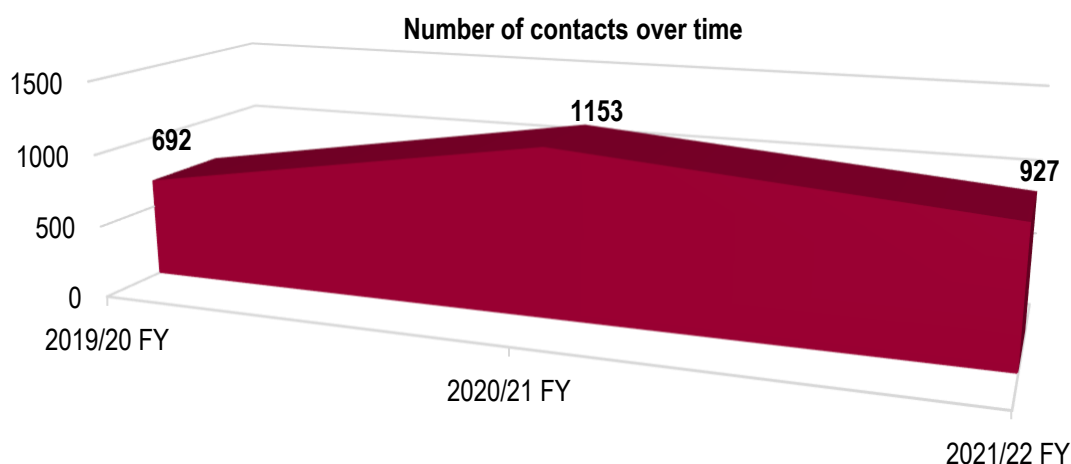
- 140 Adults and children made an extended visit to The Expo
- 140 Morning tea vouchers were handed out to adults and children who visited The Expo
- 120 Coffee vouchers were handed out to adults who visited The Expo
- 87 Vouchers were distributed at The Expo
- 70 Satchels containing information about wellbeing were given to family groups
- 28 People presented on the day of the Expo seeking a flu injection
- 20 Children had their faces painted
- 17 Covid injections were given
- 15 Evaluation forms were completed
- 12 Aromatherapy gift bags were claimed from vouchers distributed in the community to vulnerable families
- 4 Local leaders spoke about Expo '23

### A few statistics point to some lost potential of the EXPO.

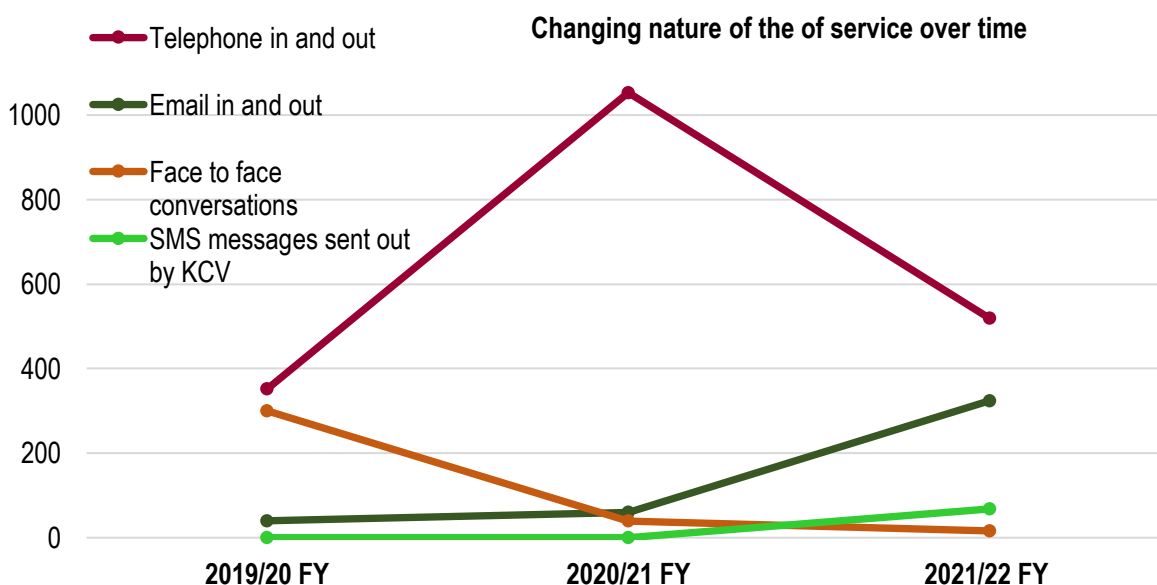
- 110 People who were expecting to receive the flu or Moderna injections did not attend the Expo once it was made clear they would not be available.
- 79 People who had booked for the flu /covid injections but did not attend the Expo
- 1 Person did not stay because she would only have the Moderna vaccination.

## The KCV Kinship Care Counselling Service

This service is provided to kinship carers on a one-on-one basis. During the course of any given contact KCV listens to the carers story and responds with encouragement, information, referral or ongoing contact. In the 2021-22 financial year a number of vouchers were also distributed to kinship care families under unprecedented pressure due to Covid related affects.



The changing nature of KCV interaction with carers is evident. The decline in face-to-face conversations is stark.



### Specialist Counselling

It became clear during the course of the year that specialist counselling was needed. The detailed knowledge required to find solutions to some problems carers faced was beyond the range of the KCV staff. Further, some issues were urgent and KCV was unhappy about referring carers to services known to be busy and unresponsive. Therefore, KCV employed the services of a specialist so that carers are given detailed and speedy advice on specific issues such as NDIS plans.

## Publications

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### Newsletters

Multiple editions three newsletters were produced, with an emphasis placed on production of the Covid related newsletter.

- 27 Editions of the Family Care in the Time of Corona Virus newsletter
- 09 Editions of The Kinship Carer newsletter
- 09 Editions of The Grandparent newsletter

### GPV/KCV Reports

Two Reports of GPV/KCV surveys were produced, the:

- Report of The Role of Grandparents Survey
- Report of the Self-care survey

### Podcasts

Three of the four podcasts released in 2021-22 FY related to Covid matters and were listened to by 769 people. The titles were:

- Self-care and how to prevent burnout - 131 plays
- DSSH responds to the Covid-19 crisis - 167 plays
- Corona virus and kinship carers - 138 plays
- Safety and efficacy of the Covid-19 vaccines - 333 plays

### Websites

The GPV/KCV websites are regularly updated, they are increasingly being viewed and are the main way in which kinship carers find KCV. For the 2021-22 FY there were

- 38,403 visits by 17,922 visitors to the KCV website
- 25,145 visits by 10,357 visitors to the GPV website

Visits to websites



■ Visits to KCV website   ■ Visits to GPV website

Visit - A visit is a session of continuous activity where all hits are recorded in the log file for one visitor to a web site. The visit starts the moment of the first hit on the web site and continues until the session ends through inactivity. By default, if a visitor is inactive for 30 minutes or more during a session, the visit is terminated and a new visit begins when activity resumes. One visitor can make multiple visits to a website.

Visitor - A visitor is a person who visits a web site.

### Discontinued publications

During the course of this financial year the Board made a decision to discontinue production of the *KIN News*

No submissions to enquiries were made this year. This was the only year in the 21 years of GPV/KCV operations that this has happened.

## Campaigns

This financial year was characterised by a reduction in campaigns as compared with previous years. Once again this is due to Covid and the decision by GPV/KCV to contrate on work related to preventing the worst effects of Covid amongst the kinship care fraternity. However, the foundations for two ongoing campaigns were laid.

### Support for the Public Sector

GPV/KCV has always supported the need for a well-funded public sector. The VAGO report highlighted the value of public sector enterprises that are open to public scrutiny and accountability and strengthened the resolve of GPV/KCV to campaign in support of the public sector.

### Grandparents for the Environment

This campaign was suspended during 2021-22 with donations to environment agencies forwarded in the name of GPV/KCV.

- Worldwide Wildlife Fund
- Planet Ark



### Uluru Statement from the Heart



The emergence of a comprehensive public discussion of the Uluru Statement from the Heart was most welcome by GPV/KCV, with the Board making a decision to engage in activity to support it. As a start, the Uluru statement was released to GPV/KCV members with a call for them to register their personal support for it.

We, gathered at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, coming from all points of the southern sky, make this statement from the heart:

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands, and possessed it under our own laws and customs. This our ancestors did, according to the reckoning of our culture, from the Creation, according to the common law from 'time immemorial', and according to science more than 60,000 years ago.

This sovereignty is a spiritual notion: the ancestral tie between the land, or 'mother nature', and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were born therefrom, remain attached thereto, and must one day return thither to be united with our ancestors. This link is the basis of the ownership of the soil, or better, of sovereignty. It has never been ceded or extinguished, and co-exists with the sovereignty of the Crown.

How could it be otherwise? That peoples possessed a land for sixty millennia and this sacred link disappears from world history in merely the last two hundred years?

With substantive constitutional change and structural reform, we believe this ancient sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood.

Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are alienated from their families at unprecedented rates. This cannot be because we have no love for them. And our youth languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future.

These dimensions of our crisis tell plainly the structural nature of our problem. This is the torment of our powerlessness. We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take a rightful place in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.

Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: the coming together after a struggle.

It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination.

## Finance Report

Grandparents Victoria Inc. Auditor's Report 07/09/2022 for the year ended 30 June 2022

<b>Income</b>	2022	2021
Grants	227,484	207,777
Grants - Other	17,160	15,600
Total Grant Operating	244,644	223,377
Donations		
Donations Received	870	-
Total Donations	870	-
Membership Fees	320	586
Total Income	245,834	223,963
Gross Surplus	245,834	223,963
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Accounting Fees	645	1,050
Advertising & Marketing	1,560	-
Assets Purchased < \$5000	1,249	2,519
Bank Fees	66	148
Board and Governance Expenses	787	-
Client Support Services	7,300	-
Computer Expenses	2,293	930
Consultancy Fees	179,158	173,635
Donations paid	300	325
Fees & Permits	48	-
Insurance - Rental Properties	305	312
Meeting Expenses	5,018	10,479
Membership Fees Paid	124	-
Postage, Freight & Courier	1,918	1,052
Printing & Stationery	6,744	6,491
Property Management Fees	21,750	14,820
Publications & Information Resources	1,752	2,491
Rates & Taxes	249	135
Repairs & Maintenance	929	1,826
Sundry Expenses	-	346
Training & Development	1,181	-
Travelling Expenses	999	1,704
Utilities	3,914	4,213
Total Expenditure	238,288	222,478
	2022	2021
Current Year Surplus/ (Deficit) Before Income Tax Adjustments	7,545	1,485
Current Year Surplus/(Deficit) Before Income Tax	7,545	1,485
Net Current Year Surplus After Income Tax	7,545	1,485

### Independent Auditors Report to the members of the Association

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Grandparents Victoria Inc. (the association), which comprises the committee's report, the assets and liabilities statement as at 30 June 2022, the income and expenditure statement for the year then ended, cash flow statement, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the certification by members of the committee on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the association.

### Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of Grandparents Victoria Inc. is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report, and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001/ACNC Act* and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects (or gives a true and fair view –refer to the applicable state/territory Act), the financial position of Grandparents Victoria Inc. as at 30 June 2022 and (of) its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001/ACNC Act*.

### Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Grandparents Victoria Inc. to meet the requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001/ACNC Act*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Auditor's signature: Paul Vassiliadis

Auditor's address: Level 1, 30 Amis Crescent, Keilor East VIC. 30



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