



Term 2 | 2017

# Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers – SA Inc

CFC-SA is the peak body for foster and kinship carers in South Australia

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*Advocate*

## **Children and Young People (Safety) Bill 2017 (SA) – Advocating for Carers and their rights**

*Support*

CFC-SA has been advocating strongly for rights and legal protections for Carers within the new child protection legislation.

*Connect*

Most recently, CFC-SA has sought the removal of penalties for Carers. We have been advised that changes have been adopted in the Bill as a direct result of our feedback and there will **no longer be any risk of imprisonment for Carers and fines have been reduced** from \$50,000 to \$10,000.

*Inform*

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Our advocacy efforts are once again directed towards Carers' rights to challenge decisions that affect them and the children in their care following the removal of many of the reviewable decisions by the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT) in the Bill. CFC-SA has met with the Department for Child Protection seeking to address this omission and reintroduce all the inclusions from the draft legislation in the current Bill.

*"There are no seven  
wonders of the world in  
the eyes of a child. There  
are seven million."  
Walt Streightiff*

## **Recharge 2017 Event**

Planning is underway for this years' event to be held

**Friday 20 October**

with special guest speaker **Nathan Wallis**, inspirational speaker from New Zealand, father of three, stepfather of two & foster father of many more!



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## **CONTACT US**

*support@cfc-sa.org.au*

*Freecall 1800 732 272*

*PO Box 2052  
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## **Forum for Carers**

Thank you to all who attended the recent Forum for Carers in March. Feedback from the day showed it provided opportunities to speak and connect with Carers and highlighted ongoing interest in Other Person Guardianship (OPG). CFC-SA aims to provide a follow up session regarding OPG when changes are in place. Summary notes are available on our website, together with OPG information. Evaluation from the day has identified suggested topics for future events, including 'managing changes in children in this day and age' & 'how Carers care for themselves'.

## **Apology**

CFC-SA again sincerely apologises for the delay in distribution of our Term 1 2017 Newsletter. We are sorry that the timing meant many Carers who would have liked to attend the Forum for Carers missed out. Please consider joining us a Member to receive updates direct to your email.

*Are you covered  
for accidental  
breakages under your  
home contents  
insurance?*

*As one Carer found out  
recently, DCP may not  
cover costs for all  
accidental breakages,  
but will consider  
payment of excess for  
insurance claims*

*A reminder to check  
your insurance cover*

**Join us as a Member**

*CFC-SA welcomes new  
Members and offers  
opportunities for  
Carers and other  
interested persons to*

*- receive invitations and  
free entry to special events*

*- be notified of  
developments occurring  
across the sector*

*- share views, ideas and  
suggestions*

*- contribute to the future  
of CFC-SA*

*Membership is free*

*Join online*

[www.cfc-sa.org.au](http://www.cfc-sa.org.au)

## CFC-SA Services for foster and kinship carers

Would you like to **connect** with other foster and kinship carers?

Do you have questions or need **information** about your caring role?

Are there times when you would like help to **advocate** for change?

Could you use **support** and benefit from discussing issues with a peer?

CFC-SA's freecall **phone 1800 732 272** and **email: [support@cfc-sa.org.au](mailto:support@cfc-sa.org.au)** are available to all Carers in South Australia. CFC-SA aims to connect families to resources, identify appropriate support options and share caring experiences. Your calls and emails also mean CFC-SA can identify current and ongoing issues and can do better and do more to represent foster and kinship carers across various forums and networks.

## KPMG Carer Advocacy Services review

CFC-SA has met with KPMG to share our vision for expanded advocacy and support services for foster and kinship carers as recommended in August 2016 by Commissioner Nyland. We stressed the urgency of providing adequate support to Carers during this period of substantial change and the importance of ensuring the Carers' voice is heard across the child protection system. Key points in our presentation (full version on CFC-SA website):

- The Carer's voice needs to be well represented during this period of transition and into the future.
- We have a proven track record and the trust of the Carer community.
- We are 'funding ready'.
- We have strong, productive and positive relationships with other relevant organisations.
- Proper resourcing will enable CFC-SA to better meet our longstanding mandate – to advocate, support, connect and inform – and assist DCP to meet the recommendations of the Royal Commission.
- We understand, and can meet, the challenges associated with providing the services recommended by the Commissioner.

We know that supporting Carer families will see better outcomes for children and young people in the child protection system and CFC-SA looks forward to working together with all stakeholder as part of an improved child protection system to achieve better outcomes for children and young people in care through delivering essential services to foster and kinship carer families.

## 2017 Foster & Kinship Carer Survey

Tell us what it's like to be in your shoes.



We want to hear what is currently happening for SA Carer families, what you believe would make your family really hum, and what changes will mean better times ahead for the children and young people in your care. Results will help inform future planning.

The 2017 Survey is currently being prepared and will be **available during July**, distributed by email to Members, available via Facebook link and on our website.

## CFC-SA Newsletters will no longer be posted

CFC-SA is making alternate **plans to distribute future newsletters via email** and will be emailing direct to CFC-SA Members and uploading regularly on our website, with links via Facebook. If you are not already a Member, please consider joining to receive updates as they happen. We will also be contacting foster care agencies and kinship care teams and seeking their support to distribute this newsletter via their mailing lists in future.