



Connecting
Foster & Kinship
Carers | SA Inc
advocate · support · connect · inform

Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers - SA Inc (CF&KC-SA) is the peak representative body for **foster & kinship carers** in South Australia. CF&KC-SA aims to improve the lives of children and young people in care through provision of services addressing the key themes:

advocate - support - connect - inform

CF&KC-SA's services value and support Carer families to sustain strong and positive relationships in homes across South Australia

Term 4 e-Newsletter

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Dear South Australian Foster and Kinship Carers,

Welcome to the second online edition of the CF&KC-SA newsletter. We hope your families are seeing out the final days of the school year in style and are getting ready to enjoy the holiday season.

We are pleased to confirm our formal change of name to '**Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers – SA Inc**' has been lodged and we are now inclusive of kinship carers in name as well as services - reflecting our past, current and future work, and acknowledging the growing number of kinship carers providing family-based care.

CF&KC-SA will be working through the holiday season, with our usual support services available for Carers now enhanced by the [Peer Support Network](#), together with a focus on:

- submitting a successful tender application for Carer Advocacy Services (due 23 January 2018) so that we may continue to deliver services from 1 July 2018; and
- lobbying for improvements for Carer families ahead of the state election in March 2018.

If you would like to know more or support us with this work, we invite you to [sign up and become a Member](#) for regular updates and information, or to [contact CF&KC-SA](#) to explore opportunities and ways you might be involved.

On behalf of the Board, staff and volunteers, we would like to acknowledge the vital role that foster and kinship families play in making a positive difference in the lives of children and young people. We take this opportunity to say "thank you" and wish you the very best for the holiday season and New Year.

Amanda Porter

Chief Executive Officer

Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers - SA Inc

*“Family is family,
whether it’s one you start out with,
the one you end up with,
or the family you gain along the
way.”*



Anon



Peer Support Network

NOW AVAILABLE!

We have a team of 9 diverse and dedicated foster and kinship carers with a **combined 72 years of caring experience** available to have a chat, listen and share their own experiences, and to help Carers (or people thinking of becoming a Carer) to connect with someone who understands the joys and challenges of caring.

CF&KC-SA's Peer Support Network volunteers are based in 9 different regions and can deliver services across all 10 regions in South Australia.

To find out more about our Peer Support Network and to speak with a Peer Support Network volunteer, [click here](#)

“We are not alone, we can request help, support is always available”

Carer

[1800# Service: Individual Advocacy](#)

Perhaps the most important part of our work is our individual advocacy with foster and kinship carers. We received over 700 enquiries last year for help and information on a range of issues, including care concerns, removal of children from Carers' homes, payments and breakdown of communications with DCP and other support services.

[CF&KC-SA's approach](#) towards individual advocacy is to help Carers to have an effective voice in matters that affect them and the children and young people in their care.

Our phone service is available during general business hours and messages can be left at any time, with call backs usually within 24 hours. Please contact us if you have any questions relating to your caring role.

Phone: 1800 732 272

Email: support@cfc-sa.org.au

[Annual Report](#)

CF&KC-SA are pleased to present the 2016-17 Annual Report including reports from the Chairperson and CEO. highlights of activities from the past year and outlining the significant contribution on behalf of Carer families to child protection reform. [Click here](#) to view a copy of the report.

[2017 Recharge Event - Presentation Notes](#)

Thank you to the almost 250 individuals who attended our 2017 Recharge Event held on Friday 20 October 2017.

Feedback from the event was overwhelmingly positive, with many enjoying the warm Welcome to Country, hearing from CF&KC-SA about [our work and our future](#), practicing how to 'STILL' with [Annie Harvey](#) and gaining an understanding of the '4 brains' with [Nathan Wallis](#) (pictured) – taking away some ideas for how to 'fix it' (yes we can!).

[Click here](#) to view the presentation from inspirational and educational keynote speaker Nathan Wallis and also a summary of Annie Harvey's talk (including links to useful resources).

We hope all who attended enjoyed connecting with each other at the sessions and we look forward to seeing you and plenty of new faces at CF&KC-SA's 2018 Recharge Event!



*"Excellent event. Inspirational speakers.
Great day and certainly went away with
more knowledge than I arrived with. Also a
great networking opportunity for our carers
and staff alike. Very happy customer. I am
now a member of CFC and look forward to
supporting your cause :)"*



Shine a Light Conference Update

Highlights from our conference attendees were presented to guests at the recent CF&KC-SA AGM. Key messages included:

- The best predictor of future behaviour is past behaviour - don't be surprised when bad things happen; accept and be positive
 - All children need a story - they've lived their past and have survived it; they need to talk about it; be a safe and supportive space for these conversations
 - Poorer outcomes are experienced across the country for our Aboriginal children and young people - cultural care plans can be developed for Carer families (not just children); non-Aboriginal foster carers can begin the journey of cultural learning: just make a start!
 - Children and young people can recover from trauma and regain their potential; there should be no shame for Carers in seeking help or support
-

International Foster Care Conference

2017 Malta

CF&KC-SA Board member Donna Scott sits on the International Foster Care Organisation Board and holds the role of Vice Chairperson. Recently Donna attended the International Foster Care Conference in Malta and shared some of her highlights:

- The President of Malta was involved in the conference - she stayed, was committed to the children and young people and spent time with them talking about different problems.
- There were 3 groups of delegates, including children (ages 5-13) and youth (ages 14-28) with 30 young people from Malta who live in commercial care- type arrangements.
- A youth representative from Australia shared how lucky she felt to be growing up in foster care with her family.
- Foster care in India and Malta is not very good - they want to learn more, including a better understanding of their laws.
- IFCO Board executive appointments include four people with a care experience.

For more information about IFCO, please visit their website: www.ifco.info

Fee Free 2018 VACSWIM

VACSWIM SA is a South Australian Government supported initiative which provides primary school aged children with opportunities to develop a range of skills and positive experiences in the areas of water safety, confidence and competence in the water, personal survival activities and basic aquatic emergency procedures.

Program providers of SA Water VACSWIM must make provision to accommodate children under the Guardianship of the Minister at no further cost to the child or the Minister. **If you are a Carer and wish to register a child for SA Water VACSWIM, [click here for more information and bookings](#) or phone 08 8362 2423 or email info@vacswimsa.com.au**

Bookings close 6pm on 18 December 2017

Program Providers who offer SA VACSWIM include:

- Royal Life Saving South Australia: (08) 8210 4500 or email aquatics@royallifesavingsa.com.au
- Surf Life Saving South Australia: (08) 8354 6996 or email vacswim@surflifesavingsa.com.au
- YMCA: (08) 8252 4163 or email cs.vacswim@ymca.org.au

NOTE - Additional costs may be incurred or required to cover pool entry and equipment

[DECD Funding Announcements](#)

DECD recently released two announcements about funding for positions to support vulnerable children and families:

Expansion of the Wellbeing officers in schools to work with vulnerable families -

<https://www.decd.sa.gov.au/department/media-centre/media-releases/extra-wellbeing-support>

More support to help public schools better support students with complex behaviours. including an extra 10 behaviour coaches to the existing 30 currently working in schools and new specialised provisions to provide therapeutic intervention for high needs children to help them return to mainstream schooling.

<https://www.decd.sa.gov.au/department/media-centre/media-releases/more-support-student-behaviour>

Carer Payments

Information from DCP about Carer Payments (post 18) to support continuing education, rates and loadings, child care assistance and the updated Carer Support Payments Handbook are available via [this link](#) on the CF&KC-SA FAQ webpage

CREATE National Benchmarking Survey 2017

Some of the children and young people you are caring for should have received a letter in the mail regarding the CREATE Benchmarking Survey.

It's really important that children and young people have a say in decisions that affect their life. The more participation CREATE receives the better CREATE are able to Advocate for children and young people with a care experience.

The survey is confidential and you can stop it at any time.

All participants who complete the survey go into the draw to win a \$100 gift voucher and a iPad Nationally.

Click here to access the online survey

<https://create.org.au/what-we-do/national-survey-2017/>

SA EIRD Policy Brief

The South Australian Government's Early Intervention Research Directorate (EIRD) has released its first policy brief:

Identifying early intervention and prevention pathways for child protection concerns raised in pregnancy: Preliminary Findings from Child Protection Departmental Case File Reviews.

The brief summarises the preliminary findings from a case file review study utilising a sample of Unborn Child Concerns in South Australia made in 2014. This is the first of a number of case file reviews being undertaken as part of

EIRD's work program by the Australian Centre for Child Protection. The study contributes to:

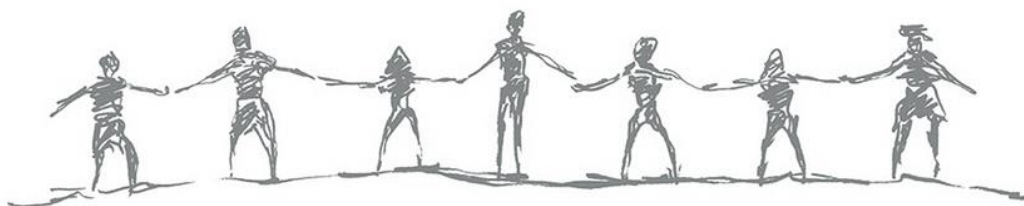
- Better understanding of concerns being raised to the Department for Child Protection about unborn children
- Examining patterns of risk factors, identifying subsequent child protection involvement for these children, and
- Recognising patterns in data to identify families who may benefit from early intervention and prevention efforts.

The three major findings of the report are:

- Early intervention and prevention potential is high
- Potential economic benefits of intervening in pregnancy with the identified target groups are also high
- A need for services to be designed for the target groups.

A case-file review to better understand the over-representation of Aboriginal children in the system is currently underway.

This work will inform EIRD's work in identifying priority areas for prevention and early intervention. For the full report [click here](#)





[Join Us and become a CF&KC-SA Member](#)

Members play an important part in shaping the future of CF&KC-SA and improving the system for all foster and kinship families in South Australia.

CF&KC-SA welcomes new Members and invites Carers and other interested persons to help make a difference to the lives of children and young people in care, and join us in this important work.

Reasons to Join:

- Contribute your ideas and opinions
- Help make CF&KC-SA's voice stronger
- Connect with other Carers
- Be notified of policy developments and research
- [Member benefits](#) such as discounted fees and special offers from organisations
- Receive invitations to special events such as the **Zoo Family Fun Day in January 2018 - free for all Members!**

Membership is **FREE** and easy to join, to signup online now - [click here](#) or **call 1800 732 272** to arrange Membership over the phone.

 Facebook

 Website

 Email

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