



# Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers – SA Inc

The peak representative body for foster and kinship carers in SA

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Tuesday 15 May 2018**

## **Win for Carer Advocacy Service**

Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers – SA Inc (CF&KC-SA) has won new funding from the Department for Child Protection (DCP) to deliver Carer Advocacy Services from 1 July 2018.

Building on a 20-plus year history of delivering peer support, information and advocacy for foster and kinship carers in South Australia, CF&KC-SA is thrilled to be continuing current services, further developing strong relationships across the child protection sector and receiving additional resources to expand its professional statewide individual advocacy service.

The Carer Advocacy Service will provide information, advice, support, education and training, together with individual and systemic advocacy to approved foster and kinship carers. This funding has been released in direct response to recommendation 116 of the Child Protection Systems Royal Commission (Nyland Report): *‘to deliver an advocacy service with paid staff to support carers to access and exercise their rights’*.

“We know South Australian children and young people who are unable to live with their biological family need greater access to stable, secure and loving families in order to achieve the best outcomes. We are dedicated to foster and kinship carers and their commitment to caring. We want to encourage more people to volunteer for this vital role, and to find other ways for people to show their support for the state’s family-based Carers”, stated CF&KC-SA CEO Amanda Porter.

CF&KC-SA Chairperson, Megan Hender added: “Family-based Carers open their homes 24/7 to raising our children – saving the state millions of dollars each year. With this funding, CF&KC-SA now has the opportunity to expand our services and do more to address, protect and improve Carers’ rights and improve outcomes for children and young people who cannot live with their birth parents.”

Amanda continued: “It is less than ideal to have 513 of the 3583 children and young people in the child protection system in commercial care [96], residential care [392] and family day care [25] arrangements. We know this is at enormous expense to the state government, but even greater cost to the wellbeing and future lives of these children and young people.”

CF&KC-SA looks forward to continuing to engage with its Members to effect positive change for Carer families, and to working collaboratively with the Minister for Child Protection, DCP, foster care agencies and other key stakeholders to implement reforms and ensure the best outcomes for all current and future Carers, and the children and young people in their care.

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