



Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers – SA Inc

The peak representative body for foster and kinship carers in SA
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MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 10 September 2018

Launch of Carer Advocacy Service

Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers – SA Inc (CF&KC-SA) is pleased to announce the official opening of its dedicated operating base at Prospect and launch of the Carer Advocacy Service (CAS).

The opening, by Child Protection Minister, Hon Rachel Sanderson MP, will be held during Foster & Kinship Carer's Week, taking place from 10am on Tuesday 11 September at 2/224 Main North Road, Prospect.

CF&KC-SA CEO Amanda Porter says, "After more than 20 years of support and advocacy for South Australia's foster and kinship carer families, the organisation is now in a position to deliver on Commissioner Nyland's recommendation to deliver an advocacy service with paid staff to support Carers to access and exercise their rights."

The opening of the organisation's premises follows the announcement in May that CF&KC-SA had won the tender for a CAS, funded by the Department for Child Protection. The establishment of the CAS took effect on 1 July 2018.

Under the CAS, CF&KC-SA will provide information, advice, support, education and training, together with individual advocacy to approved family-based Carers, and through them will work to improve outcomes for children and young people who can't live with their birth parents. In addition, CF&KC-SA will continue to work on systemic advocacy issues to improve Carers' experiences and involvement as an essential part of the child protection system.

CF&KC-SA Chair Megan Hender said the peak representative organisation was proud to have won funding and to open stand-alone, branded premises after so many years of service to SA's Carer families. "It gives us a base from which to provide professional, staffed, statewide advocacy and information services that family-based Carers deserve, and need, to care for our most vulnerable children and young people."

Ms Hender adds, "We need to keep in mind that Carers, by opening their homes to these children, save the State many tens of millions of dollars every year. We're proud to acknowledge them, to engage with them and to stand up for their rights."

Family-based Carers provide family environments and relationships for vulnerable children and young people and help them work towards achieving their potential. A particular focus of the CAS will be to ensure services are culturally responsive to Aboriginal and kinship needs given the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in care in SA.

The opening of the CF&KC-SA premises and launch of CAS precedes the full implementation of new Child Protection legislation, due to come into effect in October.

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