

## Connecting Foster Carers — SA Inc

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serving aboriginal, relative, kin and foster carers in South Australia

## CHAIRPERSON REPORT: CFC AGM, SEPTEMBER 2011

Good Morning every one. this year has just seemed to race past. As you are aware last year we brought in our new constitution and as the result of this the executive will be the same as it is a three year stint. I am glad to say we have all worked well and hard throughout the year, it is hard enough to balance home and family as it can be extremely challenging from time to time with our charges! And yet we are still here we have one leave of absent from Wendy but everyone else is standing.

As you may or may not be aware our board is made up of carers from Anglicane, Anglican Community care, Life Without Barriers, Lutheran Community care, Grandparents for Grandchildren, Relative and Kinship care. A.F.F.S. CARE.

## Events this year include:

- Zoo Snooze was a huge success 100 Children
- Links news letter X 8 meetings
- Christmas Toy Run
- Tele Conference with other states
- Tasmania Conference
- Foetal Alcohol booklets posted out 50
- Anglicare expo manned stall
- C.A.F.W.A expo manned stall
- Joint partnership meetings x12
- Hosted a workshop for Aboriginal carers
- Input into National reform (Anne)
- Meetings with Glenis and Albert
- Operational meetings with John Walker and Maria Krahling x6
- Child and Family Welfare Ass x 12 meetings
- Registration and Lic for home based care x4 meetings
- Meetings with Pam Simmons from Office of the Guardian on Siblings, on Disabilities x12 meetings
- Reconciliation meeting with Key Assets and Anglicare
- Carers Reference Group
- 1800 phone support
- Outreach phone contact
- Grandparents for grandchildren
- Novita updates
- Visit to Port Pirie
- Pt Lincoln
- 20 people to the Clipsal
- Meeting with Glenis Donna and Sue re training for teens
- Loading Assement tool
- Dame Roma Trust Fund x 3



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- Other Person Guardianship forum
- Meeting with Bev Orr from Canberra A.F.C.A.
- Training tool Foster care Families sa
- New Carers Graduation
- Two Carers to Canada
- Family Fun Day at Cowandilla School for carers week
- Working with Carers Groups and reports
- Donna from Centrelink

Where to from here as we are keeping up with all these meetings we are hosting a Forum on 31 Oct with Bryan Jefferies. We were given a grant as we have often stated that Carers need more training that is relevant to the type of children that are coming into care! This is promising to be a very special event.

Our data base is continually growing which is great.

We have working groups to help with different events which we are very grateful for we all try to do our best but without the special skills that each person brings it is the essence of our motto TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE..

We have applied for D.G.R. donor gift recipient when this comes through we are able to apply for grants to host more forums,..... especial events.... carer recognition awards .....Christmas party at the drive inn...other ideas that are in the melting pot at this stage.

The work that everyone puts in is amazing we are carers first and that entails a huge amount of work on its own..then to have a secretary and treasurer that put in so much time and effort I could not do their job Kerry has gone back to Tafe to learn more.

- Major thorn in our side is our website...but this is being looked into!
- Not being able to visit more rural areas.
- 1800 phone number it is now directed if no one can answer it will divert to 3 other phones.
- Getting special event insurance.

Maureen Madden