



Connecting Foster Carers – SA Inc

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

CFC-SA AGM: October 10, 2012

Foster and Kin care continue to grow. National figures show nearly 100% increase in the past 10 years, currently over 37,000 every day*¹.

At 30 June 2011 there were 2,368 children in care in SA. 43.6 in Foster care, 41.7 in Kin care and 14.7 in Resi/other*¹. The needs of children and young people continue to grow. The needs of those who support them continue to grow also. CFC-SA continues to do what we can to support Foster and Kin families to meet the daily challenge. As Board members are all foster/kin parents, our availability varies, due to the challenges and stages that our children are facing at different times. We are very aware of what we would like to see happen and aware that we are not always able to achieve everything. This report will highlight what has been achieved and identify some areas of growth for the coming year.

CFC-SA membership list currently sits at 442.

Carer Support:

1800 number received 114 calls in 12 months to June 2012.

It is noted that CFC-SA members are ringing Board members direct as we Board members build improved links with their local Caring families.

Website had 64 contacts in 12 months to June 2012.

This is very impressive since the website still has not been updated!

Regional Visits to:

- Murray Bridge in March
- Kadina in June
- Mt Gambier during Carers Week in August. CFC-SA were pleased to help fund Robyn Moore speak at the day and evening events.
- Books sent in November/December 2011 to each Regional area. Thanks to Bees Knees books for their generous donation!

CFC Hosted Carer Support:

- Christmas Party at Gepps Cross Drive Inn
- Monthly coffee mornings
- Easter holidays BBQ in Elizabeth
- Monthly pub night in the Hills



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- Phone support to regional carers. Sister Carmel had been calling regional carers, averages 20 calls per month up until early this year. Changes in her situation have not enabled her to continue recently.

Recharge Events

- October 2011 held at Governor Hindmarsh Hotel with Bryan Jeffrey from Melbourne. Over 70 people attended either the day or evening session. Feedback was very positive. As grant was not fully utilised, we were able to host a second Event.
- June 2012 held at Arkaba Hotel with John & Stacy Blythe from Sydney. Building on the strengths and feedback of the October event, we were very encouraged to have nearly 190 attend either the day or evening session. Support staff were invited to attend also with 33 taking up this offer. Feedback again was immensely positive.
- CFC-SA hope to host more of these in 2013 if funding can be sourced.

Sector Support:

From October 2011, there have been significant changes in the structure and staffing of what is now called Department for Education and Child Development. Families SA now sit in this newly created Department.

We have a new Government Minister: Hon Grace Portolesi. CFC-SA is meeting with her quarterly.

There is a new Chief Executive Officer: Keith Bartley, who has extensive experience in Education and Child Development in the UK.

CFC advocate for the needs of carers in many ways.

Over the past year we have met with FSA Leaders and attended the following groups/meetings:

- Meet with David Waterford quarterly (with Min Portolesi) and as need arises.
- Carer Assessment & Review Manual Workgroup
- Consents and Decisions Practice Guide and roll out
- Carer Assessment Advisory Panel consultation
- Transition to Independent Living consultation
- Family Based Care Agency Forums
- FSA Statewide Supervisors on “Building relationship with the care team”.
- FSA Statewide Senior Pracs on “Building resilience.”
- CREATE
- Disability Services
- Special Investigations Unit
- Families SA Recruitment Information Nights



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- Foster Care Liaison Officer
- Carers Week Planning Committee
- CAFWA (Child and Family Welfare Association) monthly
- Quarterly meetings with Office Of the Guardian
- Relative and Kin Care support groups
- Life Without Barriers State Carer reference group
- Life Without Barriers National Carer reference group
- Ac.care in Murray Bridge
- Anglicare Carer reference group, training team and management

We have also been speaking with Dana Shen, Director of Residential Care services after hearing her speak at the Family Based Care Agency forum in Feb. We are considering the possibilities of building links with Foster/Kin and Resi care. This is in the very early stages but will keep you informed!

In the 12 months ending June 2012 CFC board members attended 187 separate meetings. Some of these had more than one member present. Records show that between us we attended 261 meetings, with an average time of 2.5 hours. This equates to 652 (wo)man-hours!

CFC-SA board has seen some changes in the past 12 months with several members moving on during the past 12 months. We wish to thank Bev Hall, Kerry Forster, Wendy Koolmatrie, Sue Cutting and Eunice Boyd for their service over the years (and in some cases many years!).

We have had 2 new people join during the past 12 months and welcome Jeanne and Sue. There are currently some vacancies which we believe will be filled at this AGM. We look forward to growth and continued service to Foster and Kin families in South Australia.

Things we will be exploring and achieving over the coming 12 months include:

- Employing a paid Admin staff member
- Creating an inviting and informative website
- Hosting Consents and Decisions workshops across the state (Metro one on Oct 23!)
- Taking 10 people to the National Foster Kin Conference in Melbourne in October
- More Recharge Events
- Increasing our funding base
- Hosting information session to keep our members informed of FSA practice
- Continuing to listen to our members and seeking ways to support them – both individually and as part of the bigger sector.



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Maureen Madden
(Chair)

Jo Jarvis
(Secretary)

*1 Australian Institute of Family Studies (30 June 2011)