



Connecting
Foster & Kinship
Carers | SA Inc

advocate • support • connect • inform

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

*"Our work is to support your
important work – we consider
that a privilege"*

Megan Hender

LLB, GDLP

I have had the honor of chairing Connecting Foster Carers – SA Inc (CFC-SA) since April 2017. It's been a steep learning curve for me, made much easier by the incredible work and support of our CEO, our hard-working volunteer board, and particularly our passionate and wise outgoing chair Jo Jarvis. (Jo is providing her own report on the year as she has seen it.) I'm grateful to them all – for welcoming me so warmly and helping me settle in. My first few months have been heady. My arrival coincided with a critical piece of legislation being before Parliament – the *Children and Young Persons (Safety) Bill 2017* (SA). CFC-SA set about some intense lobbying, with great results. The government, at our urging, amended its own legislation to include new rights for Carers – including the right to have some decisions of the Department independently reviewed by the SA Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT). That legislation has now passed, but has yet to come into effect. We will be keeping SA's foster and kinship carers (Carers) well and truly informed as to its progress. The changes bring our legislation into line with other states and have the potential to significantly improve the relationship between Carers and the Department for Child Protection (DCP) through improved accountability. Other highlights for me have been:

- chairing our open Board meeting in July, and meeting some of our Members
- meeting with relevant Ministers, and departmental and ministerial officials, to continue to press for progress on the Nyland Report recommendations (including better funding for carer advocacy and education services)
- learning about the challenges facing Carers and getting a deeper appreciation of the work CFC-SA does to support Carer families
- working with the board on its continued commitment to improve the governance of the organisation, bringing in new skills to meet identified needs

Thank you to all those who have served on the Board – past and present. We, your Board, are now starting work on a new Strategic Plan – to shape an organisation that can continue to predict and meet the needs of the SA foster and kinship carer community well into the future.

OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

"I look forward to the continued growth and increased profile and understanding and appreciation for the difference our Members and all Carers make in the lives of the children and young people who share their hearts and homes."

Jo Jarvis

It is with great delight that I write this report.

In April this year Megan Hender joined the board as Chairperson. She brings a wealth of experience, understanding and connections which have all proved invaluable over the past few months and fulfilled many of the dreams, plans and aspirations of the CFC-SA Board, some of which have been growing over many years. It has been a pleasure to work with her and I have great confidence in her understanding of and passion for the role foster and kinship families provide to children and young people across South Australia.

In the 9 years I have been involved with CFC-SA there have been many challenges and frustrations, thankfully interspersed with some wins and celebrations. The introduction of Recharge Events in 2011, the continual opportunities to meet with and be a part of the wider child protection sector and bring Carers' perspective to discussion and policy, and most recently changes to the Child Safety Legislation, are all major wins.

From the governance level of CFC-SA it has been wonderful to have the following visions fulfilled in the past 12 months:

- employment of our first Chief Executive Officer – this has been something we have been seeking for over 12 years and it has been a great accomplishment to realise this vision
- employment of the first Administrative support staff - 10 years plus
- improved understanding of Board governance by Board members
- a skill-based Board with key areas identified and filled, including legal, financial, system and individual advocacy, governance, and most recently public relations and media

My time as Chairperson of the CFC-SA Board has been an exciting time, which has involved a lot of hard work, tough conversations and new thinking. I believe the foundation that has been laid since CFC-SA was first incorporated in 1999 is providing a solid base to grow from. I wish to thank all those who have served on the Board of CFC-SA in the past. Your contribution has made a difference! I welcome those who are yet to come.

CEO'S REPORT

"We continue to act in the best interests of SA's foster and kinship carer community – to be a voice on issues affecting Carer families and to raise the profile of foster and kinship care in SA"

Amanda Porter

B.Psych, MBA (Health)

It has been my pleasure to serve as CFC-SA's first paid employee and Chief Executive Officer since August 2016. Joining CFC-SA upon the release of the Nyland Royal Commission has given me a solid understanding of the past, an insight into many of the challenges, but mostly an optimism for the future and a commitment towards ensuring improvements in foster and kinship care are a key part of child protection reform. During the 2016-17 financial year there has been a lot of progress across several aspects of the organisation including:

- membership, updating our Member records, providing opportunities for Members to attend special events at the Clipsal 500 and national Conference, and introducing special Member offers
- events, including hosting the annual Recharge event in 2016, two forums for Carers to meet with DCP Chief Executive, Cathy Taylor, DCP representatives sharing OPG information and data, and a family fun event at the Drive-in
- governance, with a new Constitution, completion of a 3-part Board governance training program and a resulting governance action plan to guide this important aspect of our work
- strategy, with a plan to provide direction and meet key areas of growth and advocacy
- operations, defining our services and supporting them with policies and procedures to ensure we meet legislative requirements
- child protection sector involvement, broadening our networks with key stakeholders and being a voice for Carers
- legislative change, ensuring foster and kinship carers have legal rights and those rights are protected
- media releases, including raising the issue of foster and kinship carers risking prison and substantial fines under the new Bill
- a new website, accessible on smart devices
- 2017 Foster and Kinship Carer survey (delivered during July 2017)
- growing our staff team, welcoming Natalie Baron (in December 2016) to manage our administrative needs and Jane Horton (in July 2017) to coordinate our volunteers and form the Peer Support Network

This work cannot occur without support of many. I would like to thank the community of foster and kinship carers across South Australia for their feedback and involvement in the sector. Thank you to all the CFC-SA Members who have signed up and encouraged us to continue to make a difference for Carer families. Thank you to the Board of CFC-SA who make decisions, provide invaluable insight and oversight and shape the future of CFC-SA. Thank you to the staff of CFC-SA who go above and beyond to deliver quality services.

OUR HISTORY

Connecting Foster Carers - SA Inc (CFC-SA) has been supporting South Australian foster and kinship carers (Carers) for over 20 years.

Evolving from a grassroots organisation, CFC-SA was incorporated in 1999 and continues to utilise **peer support** in the delivery of peak body services, strengthening individuals and families who provide family-based care for children and young people.



"The support I have received from CFC-SA has been so helpful -- it's given me the confidence to continue caring." (Carer)

"I needed your encouragement and support to start - I was in the worst place possible. So over the finger pointing and blame. I didn't feel worth anything anymore. You were there to listen and encourage and advise. Thank you." (Carer)

"No-one understands the challenges Carers face looking after a child in the care system quite like other Carers." (Carer)

OUR PEOPLE

BOARD MEMBERS

NAME	POSITION	DATES (if not for whole year)
<i>Megan Hender</i>	<i>Chairperson</i>	<i>Joined April 2017</i>
<i>Donna Scott</i>	<i>Vice Chairperson / Treasurer to February 2017</i>	
<i>Kate Copeland</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	
<i>Marc Sodomka</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Joined February 2017</i>
<i>Jo Jarvis</i>	<i>Board member / Chairperson to April 2017</i>	
<i>Kelly Ryan</i>	<i>Board member</i>	
<i>Mel Round</i>	<i>Board member</i>	<i>Joined March 2017</i>
<i>Deb Mutton</i>	<i>Board member</i>	<i>To March 2017</i>
<i>Sabine Cavus</i>	<i>Board member</i>	<i>To March 2017</i>
<i>Lisa O'Malley</i>	<i>Board member</i>	<i>To February 2017</i>

OUR PEOPLE (cont.)

EMPLOYEES

NAME	POSITION	DATES (if not for whole year)
<i>Amanda Porter</i>	<i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	<i>Joined August 2016</i>
<i>Natalie Baron</i>	<i>Administration Officer</i>	<i>Joined December 2016</i>
<i>Jane Horton</i>	<i>Volunteer Coordinator</i>	<i>Joined July 2017</i>

OUR MEMBERS

Members play an important part in shaping the future of CFC-SA and improving the system for Carer families.

The support of Members helps CFC-SA to speak up and be a voice for Carer families, advocate for improvements and deliver a better range of support services.

As of 30 June 2017, over 520 Member families were actively joining CFC-SA in this important work, 98 new members during 2016-17.

As a peak body, it is vitally important for CFC-SA to ensure that it understands the needs of its Members so that it may best represent their interests in CFC-SA's advocacy efforts and service development.

In July 2017, CFC-SA developed a draft Membership Strategy and sought the involvement of Members to shape our future work. A final draft was distributed in October 2017 for feedback, with the final document to be incorporated in the 2018 Strategic Plan.



OUR ACTIVITIES 2016-2017 ADVOCATE

Carers often face challenges and issues that impact their ability to provide care for vulnerable children and young people resulting in poorer life outcomes. Advocacy provides Carers with the opportunity to participate in decisions that impact the children and young people they care for, their lives and their families, and aims to ensure their rights as Carers are promoted and protected.

CFC-SA works to promote the voice of Carers, to have Carers' voices heard, and for Carers to be collectively recognised as an essential part of the child protection system.

This advocacy occurs at two levels: influencing positive changes to attitudes, policies, systems and laws through **systems advocacy**; and **individual advocacy**, helping Carers have an effective voice in matters that affect them and the children and young people in their care.

CFC-SA's **individual advocacy** was active during 2016-17 year, averaging one significant matter per week for Carers on a range of issues, including:

- care concerns
- carer investigations
- abrupt removals of children and young people from Carer families
- Other Person Guardianship (OPG)
- payments
- de-registration

The majority of communication on these issues occurred with DCP staff at local offices and we acknowledge all staff who took the time to review the individual circumstances for Carer families and work towards positive resolutions.

OUR ACTIVITIES 2016-2017 ADVOCATE

(... continued)

We thank the Carers who contacted our service and trusted us to help them have a voice and to share many of their learnings with the broader Carer community. While our **systems advocacy** was largely focused on legislative change and saw amendments passed in relation to the new Bill, it also involved areas of work across the sector including:

- an appointment to the Child Safety and Wellbeing Advisory Group
- as a member of the DCP Out-of-Home Care Steering Group
- involvement in Out-of-Home Care reform committee and providing feedback on the OOHC Program Charter and draft Engagement Plans
- seeking improvements to DCP processes, including responding to the 'Who can say OK?' revisions
- involvement in the Health and Social Consequences of Child Maltreatment Consumer Group with UNISA
- responding to the Recommendations from the Nyland Royal Commission Report
- response to the KPMG Foster & Kinship Care review and stakeholder interview
- response to the KPMG Carer Advocacy Services review and stakeholder interview
- seeking outcomes of KPMG reviews and providing feedback on the 'A Fresh Start' response to the Nyland recommendations
- joining the Home Stretch Campaign – signing up to continue out-of-home care support for young people to receive care to 21 years (and not end at age 18)

Many of these responses were submitted with feedback from Members included in our submissions. Thank you to all who lent their voices to our systems advocacy, including those who provided support online via the YourSAy website.

OUR ACTIVITIES 2016-2017 SUPPORT

CFC-SA offers support for Carers through the 1800 732 272, email and website enquiry lines, which aim to complement existing services or meet areas of support or need not currently available. CFC-SA focus is on collaboration and working in a coordinated manner that supports communication between Carers and other parties, while acting in the best interests of the child or young person.

Listening to Carers' experiences and acknowledging the importance of the caring role in each child and young person's life, CFC-SA supports the effective communication of Carers' needs and wants, and offers Carers additional benefits through access to **peer support** from experienced Carers.

During the year, CFC-SA :

- responded to 653 phone calls;
- replied to 71 email and website enquiries;
- attended 141 sector meetings; and
- engaged with a growing Facebook community – 587 Likes and 572 Followers of our page as at 30 June 2017

We also took steps to improve our ability to provide support, for example:

- registered to make online CARL notifications
- CFC-SA has been approved by the Legal Practitioners Education and Admission Council (LPEAC) as an institution for the purposes of a Category D volunteer practising certificate. We intend to build this into our future advocacy service model, together with a broader range of volunteer support across other areas

OUR ACTIVITIES 2016-2017 CONNECT

CFC-SA's services are designed to work in partnership to promote the best interests of each child and young person and to protect and enhance the interests of all Carers in South Australia.

CFC-SA connects with the Carer community, Department for Child Protection, support agencies, kinship care teams and other key stakeholders to ensure effective consultation, coordination, communication and education on issues and activities which affect Carers.

CFC-SA offers opportunities for Carers to connect through events and activities, together with information about local support groups and other networks offering Carers' families a range of opportunities to share the achievements, joys, challenges and demands involved in parenting within the various contexts of the child protection system.

Opportunities to connect over the past year include the following events:

- Recharge 2016, held on 29/9/2016 with keynote speaker Fay Jackson, attended by 128 individuals, despite being held the day after the statewide blackout!
- Family Fun Event at the Drive-in (14 January 2017), attended by 70 car loads of Member families who came along to see the movie 'Sing!' and enjoyed the opportunity to socialise with other Carers and involve all the members of their family. Children and young people (and some adults) enjoyed the petting zoo and airbrush tattoos.
- 24/3/2017 Forum for Carers – OPG Info session, sharing two Carer stories and DCP update from Robyn Skilbeck, and Q&A with Cathy Taylor
- Clipsal 500 tickets for 11 Members to attend the South Australia Suite at the invitation of Premier Weatherill and Minister Close

OUR ACTIVITIES 2016-2017 CONNECT

(... continued)

CFC-SA connects with other organisations within the child protection sector and is a member of the following organisations:

- International Foster Care Organisation (IFCO)
- Australian Foster & Kinship Care Partnership (AFKCP)
- SNAICC (Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care)
- South Australian Council Of Social Service (SACOSS)
- Child and Family Welfare Association SA (CAFWA-SA), and Family Matters Campaign
- Volunteering SA&NT

We have also been building our connections and relationships with key stakeholders across the child protection sector, including:

- CREATE Foundation
- The Office of the Guardian for Children and Young People (GCYP), and have endorsed the Charter of Rights for Children and Young People in Care
- Ombudsman SA
- Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner
- Foster care agencies
- DCP Kinship care team
- Grandparent For Grandchildren SA
- Raising Children Network

OUR ACTIVITIES 2016-2017 INFORM

CFC-SA aims to support Carers in identifying what is most important for them to know and what information will improve their parenting capacity and experience. Having access to the right information at the right time also lessens the amount of time Carers spend dealing with aspects of the child protection system and keeps the focus on their parenting role with children and young people.

CFC-SA also aims to inform potential Carers about the realities of foster and kinship care and offers the benefit of Carers' experiences to the broader sector on issues important to Carers and their families.

Many of the enquiries we receive seek general information about foster and kinship care, advice on children and young people's behaviour and placement support and advice regarding agencies and kinship care teams. To share information more widely we have taken the following measures:

- updated the CFC-SA website, continually update and add to our FAQ's from Carers and pass on information distributed by DCP
- utilised our Facebook page to sharing a range of posts relating to parenting, caring, children's behaviours, international practices, research, DCP updates and awareness weeks
- refreshed our Brochure to raise awareness about our range of services
- delivered a 2 page Newsletter each term, mailed out to all Carers in SA by DCP
- updated our email contact lists and included invitations to join CFC-SA as members in every communication
- developed a draft Carer Guide: The Role of a Support Person, intended for Carers when required to attend a meeting which examines matters relating to their foster or kinship caring responsibilities

OUR ACTIVITIES 2016-2017 INFORM

(... continued)

To help inform our learning and do more for foster and kinship carer families, we have:

- designed a 2017 Foster & Kinship Carer Survey (distributed during July 2017)
- provided feedback on resources for foster parents developed by Dr Sara McLean (we have met with Sara to help distribute these when available)
- met a request from DCP to provide feedback and distribute information to Carers on draft role descriptions for Carer Relationship Officer roles
- hosted Bryan Smith, CEO of Foster Care Queensland, in Adelaide to help inform our governance growth and service development



CHILD PROTECTION REFORM

On 6 July 2017 the *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017* (SA) ('Act') passed through the South Australian Parliament. Although the Act has not yet come into force it contains several sections that are in the interests of the rights and protection of South Australia's Carers, in particular the right to appeal against DCP decisions in the South Australian Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal ('SACAT'), an independent authority that has the power to bind the Department.

The decisions that are open to review by SACAT include, amongst other things, the:

- approval of Carers
- cancellation of approval of Carers
- delegation of power to approved Carers
- provision of information to approved Carers
- inclusion of Carers in decision making
- referral of a child to long-term guardianship by the chief executive
- removal of a child from care

Previously Carers could seek review of decisions of the Ombudsman and/or the Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner, neither of whom had the power to bind the Department.

CHILD PROTECTION REFORM (cont.)

CFC-SA wins in this area were hard fought. It is CFC-SA's understanding that CFC-SA was the only organisation that submitted to Commissioner Nyland that carers should have the right to appeal against decisions that affect them and the children in their care to SACAT; and despite Commissioner Nyland not supporting this submission and making recommendations contrary to it, CFC-SA was able to lobby for its inclusion in the Act.

CFC-SA would also like to report that it was able to have the initial proposed penalties for Carers dropped:

- for providing out of home care unless approved by law, from 2 years imprisonment to a \$10,000 fine; and
- for failing to comply with a condition of approval from 12 months imprisonment to a maximum \$10,000 fine

“Over the last few weeks, the government has met with stakeholders to further discuss measures in the bill, in particular Connecting Foster Carers-SA Inc. On behalf of the government, I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge that group and thank them for their work on behalf of carers in this state. The government accepts that it is important to carers and important in terms of their retention and future recruitment that the bill provide an external review mechanism to allow decisions of the CE to either remove a child or change conditions as to their status as an approved carer. On this basis, the government urges members to support the amendment.”

(The Hon. Peter Malinauskas MLC, as reported in Hansard 2017)

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Board of CFC-SA is pleased to present the Financial Report for 2016-17.

With an operating surplus of \$10,234, 2017 has been a good year for CFC-SA. The surplus in 2016 was \$4,134. Grant funding increased a hundred fold and was applied per funding agreements. The year also saw the strengthening of the Balance Sheet with increase in Cash Assets by 23.5%.

Our income was mainly derived from our contract with the Department for Child Protection, which has been extended into the current financial year, but which will *cease on 30 June 2018. In addition, DCP provided \$90,000 towards wages and CFC-SA introduced it's first employee in 2016.

[*CFC-SA will submit a tender application to deliver Carer Advocacy Services from 1 July 2018 and hopes to sign new contract arrangements with DCP.]

We were successful in a grant application to the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion, receiving \$11,229 to deliver the Peer Support Network Project. These funds will be expended in the current financial year.

CFC-SA has implemented stronger financial management processes, including:

- introducing MYOB accounting system for CFC-SA's finances
- registered CFC-SA for GST from 1 January 2017
- improving quality of Board reports
- submitting Australian Charities & Not for Profit Commission application for charitable status (approval pending)

We acknowledge the work of our Treasurers, Donna Scott and Marc Sodomka, and thank them for their time and management of CFC-SA's finances during the 2016-17 year and to our current interim Treasurer, Hastings Chikuse.

AUDITOR'S STATEMENT

Connecting Foster Carers SA Inc.

FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR YEAR ENDED 30 June 2017

Connecting Foster Carers SA Inc.

FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

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Connecting Foster Carers SA Inc.

REPORT OF CFC-SA BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The Board of Management presents its report on CFC-SA's financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2017.

The following persons held office as Board of Management members as at the date of this report:

Megan Hender
Donna Scott
Kate Copeland
Marc Sobonika
Jo Jarvis
Kelly Ryan
Mel Round

Ex Officio Board Members:
Amanda Porter - Chief Executive Officer, CFC-SA
Natalie Baron - Administration Officer, CFC-SA

ACTIVITIES

The principal continuing activity of CFC-SA is to support and strengthen foster carers, and generally; to also promote the value of foster caring in South Australia.

RESULTS

The net result from operations was a funds surplus of \$10,234 (\$4,134 in 2016).

MATTERS SUBSEQUENT TO THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR

No matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2017 that has significantly affected or may significantly affect:

- (i) the operations of CFC-SA;
- (ii) the results of the operations; and
- (iii) the state of affairs of CFC-SA

Except as disclosed in note 2 to this financial report;

- (i) no officer of CFC-SA;
- (ii) no firm in which an officer was a member; and
- (iii) no body corporate in which an officer has a substantial interest.

has during the reporting period received or become entitled to receive a benefit as a result of a contract between the officer, firm or body corporate and CFC-SA and no officer has received either directly or indirectly from CFC-SA any payment or other benefit of a pecuniary value other than reimbursement of official out of pocket expenses and the committee honorarium payments herein reported.

Signed at: _____ this 17 day of October 2017, in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Management.

 Chairperson, Board of Management

 Member, Board of Management

Connecting Foster Carers SA Inc.

INCOME STATEMENT

FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
INCOME		
DCP Contracted Grant Income	95,168	83,740
DCP Admin Support Grant	90,000	-
Recharge Workshop Registration Fees	1,482	-
JFOD Conference Delegates Grant	-	6,500
DCST Grant Funding	11,229	-
Bank Interest Received	260	353
	<u>198,139</u>	<u>92,593</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Accounting & Audit Fees	2,018	4,400
Advertising for Staff	922	-
Affiliation Fees & Subscriptions	658	105
Carers Support Activities & Events	1,813	6,380
Committee Honorarium	14,566	23,100
Committee Travel Costs	1,087	2,745
Computer Expenses	1,225	-
Conferences & Accommodation	8,440	22,129
Depreciation	941	-
Prepaid National Conference - September '17, Melbourne	3,606	-
Insurance	4,217	3,918
Legal Fees - constitution	1,791	-
Meetings Costs (Room & equip hire and refreshments)	1,143	1,397
Newsletter Costs & Dispatch	3,049	3,686
Photocopier Rental	-	245
Training Forums & Recharge Workshops	4,830	11,819
Prepaid Recharge 20/10/17 Workshop	10,775	-
Printing, Stationery & Postage	5,657	808
Salaries	94,005	-
Superannuation	7,868	-
Storage & Repairs	1,020	2,600
Telephone & Courier	4,781	3,768
Board Training	9,300	-
Website Upgrade & Maintenance	3,216	-
Sundry Expenses	980	1,972
	<u>187,905</u>	<u>89,459</u>
SURPLUS FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES OF CPC-SA	<u>10,234</u>	<u>4,134</u>

THE SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES ON PAGE 4 FORMS PART OF THESE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Connecting Foster Carers SA Inc.

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 June 2017

ASSETS	2017 \$	2016 \$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank SA Cheque Account	31,000	15,751
Petty Cash In Hand	49	49
Express Saver Account	27,828	27,625
GST - refundable	3,603	-
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	62,480	43,424
NON CURRENT ASSETS		
Computers, Printer & Photocopier	2,823	10,548
Tape Recorder	-	196
Projector	-	1,348
Office Fridge & Kitchen Appliances	-	815
Office Chairs, Tables & Shelving	-	2,125
Boardroom Furniture	-	865
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>2,823</u>	<u>15,917</u>
TOTAL NET NON CURRENT ASSETS	(941)	(15,917)
CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>1,882</u>	<u>0</u>
Sundry Liabilities - See note # 2 on page 4		
TOTAL NET ASSETS	10,704	-
	<u>10,704</u>	
ACCUMULATED FUNDS	<u>53,658</u>	<u>43,424</u>
Accumulated Surplus - brought forward	43,424	39,291
Surplus - for the year	10,234	4,134
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS	53,658	43,424

THE SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES ON PAGE 4 FORMS PART OF THESE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Connecting Foster Carers SA Inc.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

1. Basis of Accounting

This special purpose financial report has been prepared for distribution to the Board of Management to fulfill the Board of Management's financial accountability requirements under the Associations' Incorporation Act 1985 and CFC-SA's Constitution. The Board of Management has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and, therefore, there is no requirement to apply Australian Accounting Standards and Urgent Issues Group Interpretations in the preparation of this report.

The accounting policies used in the preparation of this report are described below and are, in the opinion of the Board of Management, appropriate to meet the needs of the Board of Management.

(a) The financial statements have been prepared on a cash basis of accounting including the historical cost convention and the going concern assumption. Adjustment has however been made so as to bring to account some employees' related and conference expenses incurred but not yet paid as at the reporting date, as set out in note # 2 below.

(b) The requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards promulgated by the accounting profession do not have mandatory applicability to CFC-SA incorporated in relation to the year ended 30 June 2017 because CFC-SA is not a "reporting entity" as defined therein. CFC-SA has prepared the financial report in accordance with the following applicable Australian Accounting Standards and Urgent Issues Group Interpretations:

- AAAS 101 "Presentation of Financial Statements"
- AAAS 108 "Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors";
- AAAS 110 "Events after the Balance Sheet Date"; and
- AAAS 1031 "Materiality".

No other Accounting Standards, Urgent Issues Group Interpretations or authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

(c) Computers & Accessories
Computers & Accessories are recorded at cost, less accumulated depreciation.

Any gain or loss on the disposal of assets is determined as the difference between the written-down value of the asset at the time of disposal and the proceeds from disposal, and is included in the results in the year of disposal.

(d) Depreciation
Assets are depreciated over their useful lives. Depreciation is provided on a straight-line value basis on computers and accessories at rates calculated to allocate the cost, less estimated residual value at the end of the useful lives of the assets, against revenue over those estimated useful lives.

An asset is depreciated for a full year in the year the asset is purchased or commissioned.

(e) Income Tax
CFC-SA is exempt from income tax under the provisions of Section 50-10 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

(f) Revenue Recognition
CFC-SA funds are exclusively sourced from The Department of Families and Communities, SA. CFC-SA has no other revenue sources, not even annual membership fees.

Grant income is brought to account in CFC-SA's Profit and Loss Statement in the period it is received, and unspent grant funds are still recognised as earned income in the year received.

(g) Goods and Services Tax (GST)
Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised ex GST, since CFC-SA was registered for GST effective 1 January 2017.

(h) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments
The Board of Management evaluated estimates and judgments incorporated into the financial report based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained externally and within CFC-SA.

2. Sundry Liabilities

- Superannuation - Employer Super Guarantee Contributions
- PAYG - Employee Salaries
- Conference Travel

\$	
1,411	
7,442	
<u>1,851</u>	
<u>10,704</u>	

Connecting Foster Carers SA Inc.

STATEMENT BY CFC-SA'S BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

The Board of Management of CFC-SA Incorporated has determined that CFC-SA is not a reporting entity. The Board of Management has therefore determined that this Special Purpose Financial Report should be prepared in accordance with the constitution of CFC-SA and with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the Financial Statements.

In the opinion of the Board of Management of CFC-SA Incorporated

- (a) the accompanying Income Statement and Balance Sheet, and notes attached thereto, are drawn up so as to present fairly the results of CFC-SA for the financial year ended 30 June 2017 and the financial state of CFC-SA as at 30 June 2017 in accordance with the accounting policies stated in Note 1 to the financial statements; and
- (b) at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that CFC-SA will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

Signed this
Board of Management.

17 day of October

2017 in accordance with a resolution of the

Chairperson, Board of Management

Member, Board of Management

**CONNECTING FOSTER CARERS SA INCORPORATION
INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
TO THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF CONNECTING FOSTER CARERS SA
INCORPORATION**

Scope

The financial report and board members' responsibility

The special purpose financial report comprises the income statement, balance sheet, accompanying summary of significant accounting policies, and the statement by the Connecting Foster Carers SA Incorporation's Board of Management for the year ended 30 June 2017.

The Board of Management of CFC-SA is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and has determined that the accounting policies used are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of CFC-SA's constitution and the Associations' Incorporation Act of 1985, and are appropriate to meet the needs of Members. This includes responsibility for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to the Board of Management for the purpose of fulfilling their financial reporting requirements under CFC-SA's constitution and the Associations' Incorporation Act of 1985. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates, to any person other than the Board of Management, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Audit Approach

We have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the Board of Management of CFC-SA. No opinion is expressed to the Board of Management as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate, nor on the effectiveness of management's internal controls over financial reporting. Our audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards in order to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. The nature of an audit is influenced by factors such as the use of professional judgement, selective testing, the inherent limitations of internal control, and the availability of persuasive rather than conclusive evidence. Therefore an audit cannot guarantee that all material misstatements have been detected.

We performed procedures to assess whether in all material respects the financial reports presents fairly, in accordance with the basis of accounting described in the Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and in CFC-SA's constitution, a view which is consistent with our understanding of CFC-SA's financial position, and its performance. These policies do not require the application of all Accounting Standards, UITG Consensus Views and other professional reporting requirements in Australia.

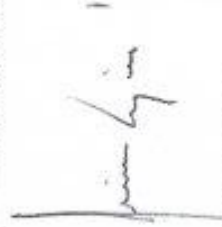
The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we followed applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Audit Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly in accordance with the summary of significant accounting policies set out on page 5 of the financial statements, the financial position of Connecting Foster Carers SA Incorporation at 30 June 2017 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.



Kimani Nganga
B Com, CPA, SSAud, DFP
SMSF Specialist Auditor™

Dated 20th October 2017

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OUR FUTURE

The Strategic Plan 2017 reflects CFC-SA's aims, goals and work for the past 12 months across three focus areas:

1. Growth and Sustainability

2. Membership

3. Advocacy

This work has largely been achieved and we are in the process of drafting the Strategic Plan for 2018 and beyond to guide our future work as the peak representative body for foster and kinship carers in SA.

CFC-SA was hoping the Nyland Royal Commission recommendations 116 and 117 to fund us (or an alternative service) to deliver Carer advocacy services and prepare associated education materials would result in an extension of our current services. Unfortunately, the KPMG review has led DCP to the decision to tender for this service and we will need to focus our energies on a successful tender application so that we can continue and expand our work as a voice for Carers in SA. This means we will need to consider all the things needed for a successful tender application, including formalising and reviewing policies and procedures, engaging in quality accreditation processes and seeking support from our Members and key stakeholders.



PEER SUPPORT NETWORK

On 20 October 2017, CFC-SA launched the Peer Support Network.

9 experienced and diverse foster and kinship carers, with over 72 years of caring experience, are ready to chat with other Carers across the 10 regions in South Australia. This access to local peer support has been a goal for CFC-SA from 2007 and is now a reality, with the first peer support services delivered less than one week after launch!

As part of CFC-SA's mission to support Carers and deliver a more accessible statewide service across SA, the Peer Support Network volunteers will offer members many benefits, including:

- being able to “have a chat” and talk about caring with someone who understands
- not feeling so alone
- experience increased community connectedness
- develop coping strategies
- develop awareness and understanding of support services
- managing life in a more positive way
- increase confidence in their role as a carer

Volunteering is important to any Not For Profit organisation and CFC-SA is delighted to welcome Peer Support volunteers as part of the team. Details of the Peer Support Network and volunteer peer support workers in each region will soon be available on the CFC-SA website.

The Department for Communities and Social Inclusion has contributed funds towards this Project.

JOIN US

JOIN US – BECOME A MEMBER

CFC-SA welcomes new Members and invites Carers and others interested in making a difference to the lives of children and young people in care to join in this important work.

Reasons to join:

- contribute your ideas and opinions
- help make CFC-SA's voice stronger
- receive invitations to special events
- connect with other Carers
- be notified of policy developments and research
- member benefits such as discounted fees and special offers from organisations

We also welcome interest from individuals who wish to volunteer their time, from businesses who can provide special offers to members, from students in community or allied health professions for placements and work experience, and from other people interested in being involved or contributing to our work and goals.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CFC-SA would like to acknowledge our funding body and we thank the **Minister for Education and Child Development** and the **Department for Child Protection** for contributing funds towards this Program.

Thanks to the following organisations for their generous Member offers:

- **Cloud Admin Services** – for discounted tax returns
- **Johnston Withers Lawyers** – for discounted legal services

Details of these offers are detailed on the CFC-SA website.



THANK YOU to the multitude of individuals and organisations who have taken the time to meet with CFC-SA over the past 12 months and shown their support for the organisation in various ways : by offering advice, lending support, sharing views about the past and the future, and giving the benefit of their experience freely and with noble intent. Your generosity has enhanced our growth and development in a wide variety of ways and is sincerely appreciated.



Connecting
Foster & Kinship
Carers | SA Inc

advocate • support • connect • inform

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