



Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers - SA Inc (CF&KC-SA) is the peak representative body for **foster & kinship carers** in South Australia

CF&KC-SA aims to improve the lives of children and young people in care through provision of services addressing the key themes:

advocate - support - connect - inform

CF&KC-SA's services value and support Carer families to sustain strong and positive relationships in homes across South Australia

Term 2 2018 e-Newsletter

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Dear South Australian Foster and Kinship Carers,

It's been an exciting time for CF&KC-SA! We were thrilled to announce we have won new funding from the Department for Child Protection (DCP) to deliver **Carer Advocacy Services** from 1 July 2018. [Click here](#) to read our media release.

In particular, we are looking forward to the following key aspects of the new service:

- **Continuing current services**, raising the profile and voice of family-based Carers within the child protection sector
- **Expanding advocacy services**, ensuring they are more accessible statewide, delivered from our Prospect base
- Retaining our experienced staff and volunteer team, plus **introducing new roles** including a dedicated foster care advocate and a dedicated kinship care advocate – along with new systems

- **Building culturally welcoming, responsive and appropriate services** to meet Aboriginal kinship community needs and respond to other Carer cohorts including Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Carers, grandparent Carers, young Carers and Carers of children with a disability
- **Engaging in sector support and development**, including recruitment and retention of family-based Carers, alongside the continuing child protection reform agenda

We are recruiting for three new positions: a [Kinship Care Advocate](#), a [Foster Care Advocate](#) and a [Community Support Officer](#). If you, or anyone you know may be interested in these roles, please apply via Seek before the closing date.

We are also busy setting up a site at 2 / 224 Main North Road, Prospect and planning for our future, including upcoming education sessions, Recharge event and the 2018 Foster & Kinship Carer Survey for distribution during July 2018.

Thank you all for your commitment to caring - we look forward to continuing to our advocacy, support and information services for family-based carers and all those who work with foster and kinship carer families.

Best wishes

Amanda Porter

Chief Executive Officer

CF&KC-SA Regional Visits

Last term, we visited with over 40 family-based carers, foster care agency staff and DCP staff during information sessions held in **Whyalla**, **Port Lincoln** and **Port Augusta**. This was a fantastic opportunity to hear from foster and kinship carers in person about what is happening for them and to meet with key staff in these regions. Thank you to all those who attended.

This term, we are travelling to **Keith** and **Mount Gambier** and invite foster and kinship carers, foster care agency staff and DCP staff to join us for information sessions to hear about our services, and to discuss the ways we are able to offer you support for your caring role, or for your work with foster and kinship carers.

- **Keith** - Wednesday 13 June 2018 - [click here for details](#)
- **Mount Gambier** - Thursday 14 June 2018 - [click here for details](#)

We hope to see you there!

Carer Education Session: Helping Children and Young People to Realise their Potential

We invite foster and kinship carers to join us for this interactive session delivered by **Colby Pearce from Secure Start®** on Friday 29 June 2018 between 10.30am-2.00pm (there is no cost for current Carers to attend).



**CARER EDUCATION SESSION:
HELPING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
TO REALISE THEIR POTENTIAL**

We invite foster and kinship carers to join us for this interactive session
delivered by **Colby Pearce** from **Secure Start®**
on
Friday 29 June 2018
at
Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers – SA Inc
situated on the land of the Kaurna people at
2 / 224 Main North Road
Prospect SA
from
10:30am to 2:00pm
with
lunch included

Numbers are limited to 20 for this session
RSVP by Friday 22 June 2018
Please advise any special requirements with your RSVP
Via email: admin@cfkc-sa.org.au

There is no cost for current Carers to attend

cfkc-sa.org.au
1800 732 272

This presentation and workshop will involve:

- Understanding the importance and function of parenting in helping children and young people realising their potential;
- Recognising what aspects of conventional care and management support children and young people realising their potential, to be independent and resilient; and
- Developing a parenting plan that facilitates mastery experiences and a sense of personal competence that support children and young people realising their potential.

[Click here](#) for more details

RSVP via email to: admin@cfc-sa.org.au by no later than 22/6/18 (numbers are strictly limited)



[CF&KC-SA Peer Support Network](#)

Want to connect with another family-based carer to discuss the challenges and joys of foster and/or kinship care?

Our Peer Support Network team of experienced foster and kinship carers are available to have a chat, listen and connect you with others.

To find out more or to contact one of the Peer Support Network volunteers please [click on this link](#), email: support@cfc-sa.org.au or phone:

1800 732 272

*“We are not alone, we can request help,
support is always available” (Carer)*

Wesley Mission Living Skills Program

We are pleased to be promoting this pilot Living Skills Program for young people aged 15-19 years. Participants will gain valuable knowledge and receive a \$100 gift voucher upon completion! Places are limited – [click here](#) for more details



Secure Start: Kinship CARE Training

Secure Start® is an independent psychology practice based in Adelaide. Principal Clinical Psychologist and owner, Colby Pearce, is known locally and abroad for his commitment to promoting strong families, resilient children and informed organisations. He is currently working on three major projects:

- The implementation of the CARE Model in Relative/Kinship Care in South Australia;
- The implementation of the Triple-A Model of Care among TUSLA (Child Protection Agency) foster carers in Donegal, Ireland; and
- The development of a new pre (and post) approval foster care training package for the Republic of Ireland.

If you would like to know more about these major projects or register for upcoming Kinship CARE training, [click here](#), visit the website www.securestart.com.au or email Georgina Johnson at georgina@securestart.com.au

[Grandparent and Kinship Carers Awareness Campaign - 31 May 2018](#)

Grandparent and kinship carers from around Australia are being asked to attend Canberra's Parliament House on May 31 to help raise awareness around the need to support grandparent and kinship carers.



'We wish to present to the Government a yellow flower for each kinship child in their care and a purple flower for each grandparent and kinship carer of that child'

CF&KC-SA invites grandparent and kinship carers to join us and participate in this awareness campaign by drawing or taking a picture of the number of yellow and purple flowers relevant to your family. We invite you to upload your pictures in the comments section of our Facebook post on 31 May 2018.

[Click here](#) to join our Facebook page.

Elm Place PostCare Services - Focus Groups and Survey

Relationships Australia SA is making a new online space for young care leavers... and they want you to have your say!

Are you aged between 15 and 25...?

Have you ever been in care (or are you currently in care)...?

[Sign up here](#), for the chance to be a participant in a focus groups (and get paid \$60 for your time)!

If you can't get to a focus group, you can participate in an online Care Transition Survey - [click here](#). All survey participants (people who have been in care, are currently in care, foster & kinship carers, care workers) will receive a \$20 shopping voucher.

For more information - [click here](#)

CF&KC-SA Foster & Kinship Carer Survey 2018 - JULY

We are currently designing the 2018 Foster & Kinship Carer Survey to be open during July. We look forward to hearing what is currently happening for Carer families in South Australia, what you believe would make your family really hum and what changes will mean better times ahead for the children and young people in your care.

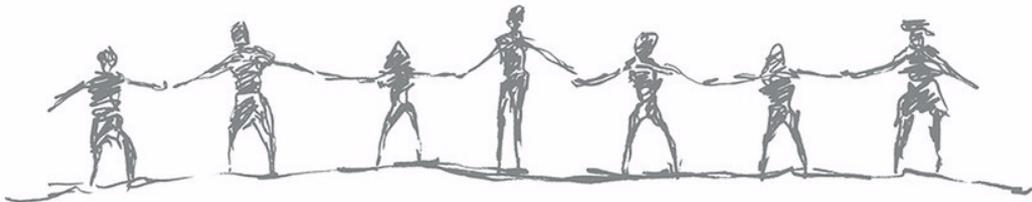
We received **246 responses in 2017** - thank you to all who took the time to provide us with information. We hope to hear from you again, and from other family-based carers also. The information you provide is used to inform many aspects of our systems advocacy and strengthen our position in seeking improvements and change.

Please keep an eye out for release of the survey during July 2018.

[CF&KC-SA Response to New Inquiry: Local Adoption](#)

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs has commenced a new inquiry into a nationally consistent framework for local adoption in Australia, with a view to providing stability and permanency of care for children in out-of-home care, with local adoption as a viable option.

CF&KC-SA were invited to prepare a submission for the Committee's consideration. To view CF&KC-SA's submission - [click here](#)



[Join Us and enjoy Member Benefits...](#)

Members play an important part in shaping the future of CF&KC-SA and improving the system for all foster and kinship families in South Australia.

CF&KC-SA welcomes new Members and invites Carers and other interested persons to help make a difference to the lives of children and young people in care, and join us in this important work.

Membership is **FREE** and you can enjoy Member-only benefits such as free entry to events, or be given the opportunity to attend workshops and conferences. **Join as a Member online now** - [click here](#) or call 1800 732 272 to arrange Membership over the phone.

Other reasons to Join:

- Contribute your ideas and opinions
- Help make CF&KC-SA's voice stronger
- Connect with other Carers
- Be notified of policy developments and research
- [Member benefits](#) such as discounted fees and special offers from organisations
- Receive invitations to special events

We also welcome contact from individuals and businesses who would like to make special offers to our Members.



[CHUFFED Crowd Funding Campaign](#)

Thank you to all those who donated to our first crowd funding campaign. **Together we raised \$355** towards phones for our Peer Support volunteers.

[1800# Service: Individual Advocacy](#)

Perhaps the most important part of our work is our individual advocacy with foster and kinship carers. We received over 700 enquiries last year for help and information on a range of issues, including care concerns, removal of children

from Carers' homes, payments and breakdown of communications with DCP and other support services.

[CF&KC-SA's approach](#) towards individual advocacy is to help Carers to have an effective voice in matters that affect them and the children and young people in their care.

Our phone service is available during general business hours and messages can be left at any time, with call backs usually within 24 hours. Please contact us if you have any questions relating to your caring role.

Phone: 1800 732 272

Email: support@cfc-sa.org.au

We apologise for any cross postings - this newsletter is distributed via various means



Facebook



Website



Email

Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers - SA Inc

www.cfc-sa.org.au

Email: support@cfc-sa.org.au

Phone: 1800 732 272

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