

Statement of Commitment

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FOSTER AND KINSHIP CARERS

Children and young people have the right to receive safe, nurturing and competent care that recognises and respects their identity, and supports them to grow, develop and reach their full potential. Importantly, children and young people are at the centre of everything we do, and must be empowered to make decisions about their own lives. Without the dedication and commitment of foster and kinship carers*, this could not be possible. We respect carers as individuals beyond their caring role, and acknowledge the emotional impacts that caring may have on their own lives and families. We recognise the cultural strength and unique contribution that Aboriginal carers bring. By working together and supporting all carers in their vital role, we can provide children and young people with the care they need to look forward to a bright future.

This Statement of Commitment has been developed between Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers SA Inc, Child and Family Focus SA and the Department for Child Protection (DCP). It recognises that we must work in partnership and value carers as an essential and respected part of the care team for children and young people. Carers can expect to be:

INFORMED

We will provide clarity to carers around their role, responsibilities and entitlements.

We will ensure carers have the information they need about the children in their care.

We will be transparent about the legal rights of carers, how carers can report concerns and ask for decisions to be reviewed.

SUPPORTED

We will provide support, guidance and training to carers to meet the needs of children in their care.

We will provide carers with allowances, subsidies and reimbursements to enable a sustainable placement.

We will empower carers to make decisions for children to take part in everyday activities.

CONSULTED

We will involve carers in decisions about the children and young people in their care.

We will be open and honest when communicating with carers and honour agreements made with them.

We will provide carers with the opportunity to give feedback on policies and practices.

VALUED

We will acknowledge the skills, expertise and knowledge that carers bring to their role.

We will recognise carers as an integral part of the care team.

We will listen to carers and value their views and circumstances.

We will recognise and celebrate the contributions carers make.

RESPECTED

We will be culturally safe in the way we work with carers.

We will recognise the significant relationship that carers have with the children in their care.

We will respect carers as individuals beyond their caring role.

We will treat the personal information of carers in accordance with the Information Sharing Guidelines.

We commit to support carers by:

- Working together in partnership
- Communicating openly, honestly and respectfully
- Building and maintaining relationships based on mutual trust and respect
- Meeting legislated requirements of the child protection system.

Roles and responsibilities

Foster and kinship carers

- Providing safe care in a secure, nurturing family home environment
- Developing meaningful relationships with the children in their care and other members of the child's care team
- Maintaining the child's health and wellbeing, connection to culture and relationships with significant others
- Supporting the child to develop independent life skills and transition to adult life.

Department for Child Protection

- Approving carers
- Acting in the best interests of children and young people to maintain safety and wellbeing
- Involving carers in the child's care team
- Providing ongoing support and training to carers
- Understanding and responding to the needs of carers.

Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers SA

- Providing information and advice to foster and kinship carers
- Advocating for individual foster and kinship carers
- Connecting foster and kinship carers with each other for peer support
- Advocating on behalf of, and representing, carers and the carer sector with government and community stakeholders.

Child and Family Focus SA

- Representing the interests of children, young people and their families
- Advocating for the sector, including carer agencies, in prevention, early intervention and out of home care services
- Promoting effective partnerships and building sector capacity.

Foster care agencies and DCP Kinship Care Program

- Recruiting and retaining suitable foster carers
- Finding and supporting kinship carers
- Providing quality training, assessment and support to assist carers to provide safe and stable care
- Ensuring practices comply with relevant legislation, regulations and guidance.




Fiona Endacott
Chief Executive Officer




Rob Martin
Chief Executive Officer




Cathy Taylor
Chief Executive




Hon Rachel Sanderson MP
Minister for Child Protection

*Both foster and kinship carers are defined as those currently approved by the Chief Executive under section 72 of the *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017*. Kinship care is provided by a relative, extended family member or kin. Foster care is provided by someone who has no previous relationship with a child or young person.