



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Foster & Kinship Carer peak body launches new Carer Statement of Commitment in partnership with Government and NGOs**

In a groundbreaking new document to be released Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020, the state peak representative body for Carers, Government and Non-government agencies have pledged their renewed support for South Australia's Foster and Kinship Carers.

The **Statement of Commitment to South Australian Foster and Kinship Carers** was developed jointly, and endorsed by, Connecting Foster and Kinship Carers SA, Child and Family Focus SA and the Department for Child Protection and sets out what Carers can expect from CF&KC-SA, DCP and CAFFSA according to **five key principles of being informed, supported, consulted, valued and respected.**

'This is a pivotal document for our Foster & Kinship community' said Connecting Foster and Kinship Carers CEO Fiona Endacott 'it clearly articulates the expectations of how Carers will be informed, supported, consulted, valued and respected throughout the caring journey, ensuring the brightest future for their young people.'

'While the Department, Non-government agencies and Carers share a strong commitment to providing the best possible care for children in state care, we all felt that making our expectations clear and explicit would make for much better outcomes for children'

'In the past, Carers have told us that they felt deprived of vital information about the children in their care and were in the dark about their legal rights and entitlements.'

'Carers bring dedication and commitment to their role but occasionally stakeholders may forget the expertise and unmatched knowledge Carers hold regarding the children in their care. By valuing this, and involving Carers more fully in decision making, we strongly believe better decisions about children will be the result.'

'In the introduction to her 2015 report, Commissioner Margaret Nyland stated that improving cooperation and collaboration would be the single most beneficial reform we could make to child protection in South Australia. As signatories to the Statement of Commitment we all hope and trust we are progressing down that path,' she said.

Foster Carer Emma Anderson states "knowing this Statement of Commitment is in existence provides Carers the confidence and reassurance our rights are safeguarded. It will provide much needed clarity regarding the expectations of all stakeholders involved in the care of our young people. It serves to cement the important role of Carers, highlighting the respect and inclusion we deserve'.

The Statement of Commitment to South Australian Foster and Kinship Carers is available here: <https://cfc-sa.org.au/news/statement-of-commitment-for-foster-kinship-carers/>

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