

STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2023

VISION

'To ensure the voice of all South Australian Foster & Kinship Carers is represented and their rights upheld, whilst they care for our children & young people'

MISSION

To ensure Foster and Kinship Carers are recognised, valued and supported to remain focused on their families – with the confidence and continued capacity to raise children and young people to recover from trauma, regain their potential, and enjoy a positive future

VALUES

Our services are developed to reflect our values and are delivered with respect, integrity and compassion from a basis of experience, passion and a genuine belief and commitment towards resolving challenges and affecting positive change

ADVOCATE – SUPPORT – CONNECT – INFORM

PURPOSE

To generate enduring and practical changes within the child protection system and improve awareness of Foster and Kinship care across the wider SA community

For all members of Foster and Kinship Carer families to experience positive outcomes, and for Foster and Kinship Carers to be unified and engaged as vital partners in care teams

For all children and young people in care to be aware of their past, connected to culture and engaged with communities helping them to thrive and reach their potential

HISTORY

Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers – SA Inc has supported South Australian Foster and Kinship Carer families for over 20 years. Evolving from a grassroots organisation, CF&KC-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

CF&KC-SA is supported by over 900 Members to progress, improve and promote Foster and Kinship care

CF&KC-SA Strategic Priorities

Our Carer Community

- We want every person who takes on the important responsibility to provide Foster and Kinship care to be focused on their family
- We want to empower families to live their daily lives to the fullest and plan for the future
- We want Foster and Kinship Carer families to be up-to-date and informed about changes and reforms, laws and processes – to know their rights and to access their rights
- We want Foster and Kinship Carers to know someone has their back, and they can access an independent body that understands their particular needs for a range of services, a trusted ally – even in times of great need and significant distress
- We want Foster and Kinship Carers to pass on or be relieved of any pressures in dealing with decision-makers, reducing individual risk and relieving or preventing conflict

The Child Protection Sector

- We want the sector to be unified in respecting the generosity of every Foster and Kinship Carer family – the ones who step in to provide care when birth families cannot – through improvements that make it easier for Carers to get on with their parenting responsibilities
- We want to improve the system responses to Foster and Kinship Carer families and ensure fairness and consistency across the system
- We want to raise the status of Foster and Kinship care in the wider SA community, to increase recognition of this fundamental role, better understand the complexities, reduce stigma and encourage more Foster and Kinship Carers
- We want to build relationships with national and international Foster and Kinship care organisations, to identify potential for shared resources and best practice

Our Organisation

- We want to retain a strong, cohesive community of Members, Board, Staff, Volunteers and Students all working towards common goals and values, building capacity to do better and do more for all Foster and Kinship Carer families in SA
- We want to be a resilient and sustainable organisation, known for our integrity, leadership and innovation – an organisation of first choice

CONNECT

to connect our Carers and build a positive Carer community

- Ensure that every approved Foster & Kinship Carer in South Australia is a member of CF&KC-SA
- Develop and sustain reference groups to connect Carers and inform our systemic advocacy
- Develop and sustain support groups to connect Carers, provide support and inform our systemic advocacy
- Provide high quality Carer events to acknowledge their contribution to the child protection sector
- Provide opportunities for Carers to connect with each other
- Develop a mentor program for new Carers

ADVOCATE

ensure Carer voices are heard in matters that affect them and their rights are upheld through high quality individual advocacy, which then informs systemic change

- Provide high quality individual advocacy to inform systemic change
- Provide high level systemic change to increase the rights for Carers, ensure fairness and consistency across the child protection system
- Ensure Carers are informed, supported, consulted, valued & respected as per the Statement of Commitment for Foster & Kinship Carers, launched 25 June 2020
- Ensure Carers can access high quality legal advice regarding child protection issues
- Collaborate with interstate peak agencies to:
 1. develop a national advocacy program
 2. improve our services and develop a consistent National approach and joint advocacy projects
- Improve support for Aboriginal Carers and non-Aboriginal Carers caring for Aboriginal children and young people
- Improve support for Culturally & Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Foster & Kinship Carers
- Improve support for Foster & Kinship Carers caring for children and young people living with disabilities
- Lobbying relevant government departments and agencies to ensure the Carer voice is heard
- Lifting Carer profile and removing stigma

INFORM

provide Carers with first class information and education to enrich the caring experience

- Develop high quality resources in house, available to the Carer community
- Provide a one stop shop of resources for Carers
- Provide education opportunities to Carers by way of registered training organisations
- Become a training provider for Carers
- Educate the child protection workforce by way of lived experience input

SUPPORT

provide Carers the opportunity to discuss issues and receive support

- Continue to provide our 1800 support line
- Increase and sustain a thriving Peer Support Network to offer support to Carers, by Carers
- Provide health and wellbeing support for Carers
- Increase organisational capacity/skill diversity
- Providing Carers with meaningful benefits and opportunities

INFRASTRUCTURE & REPUTATION

build a strong, sustainable, progressive organisation serving the Carer community

- Robust internal Information & Technology systems
- Retain and expand our quality premises
- Solid financial viability for the future
- Strong sector partnerships
- Organisation of first choice
- External endorsement of sector stakeholders
- Membership is highly valued
- Develop a high quality peer led team of workers
- Highly visible peak body with an impeccable profile and credible source of information & support