

# Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers | SA Inc

advocate • support • connect • inform

# Annual Report 2019/20



## OUR CULTURAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*CF&KC-SA wishes to acknowledge the traditional owners of country throughout South Australia and recognise continuing cultural heritage, beliefs and connection to lands, waters and communities.*

*We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestors and to Elders past, present and emerging.*

*CF&KC-SA supports the Uluru Statement From the Heart and the need for a constitutionally entrenched First Nations Voice.*

*Always was, Always will be.*

## COVER ARTWORK

Cover Artwork: **Carer families: diversity, inclusivity & love**

Artist: **Claire Richards**

*This artwork was lovingly created by local illustrator Claire Richards, in recognition of our Foster & Kinship Carer families. "The families portrayed are diverse and strong; the words represent what caring truly means to our Carer community".*

## OUR CORE VALUES

### MISSION

For all children & young people to be raised in a stable, secure, safe and loving family home environment

### PURPOSE

To ensure 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

# OUR CORE VALUES

## RESPECT

- We treat everyone with dignity
- We give Carers a platform to have their voice heard
- We acknowledge and commend the important role that Carers play in each child and young person's life
- We are culturally competent and acknowledge diversity



## COMPASSION

- We are kind and supportive
- We are empathetic listeners and aim to reduce stressors in Carers lives
- Our practice is non-judgemental and unbiased



## INTEGRITY

- We ensure Carers rights are promoted and protected
- We are transparent and reliable
- We uphold the highest ethical standards



## PASSION

- We are optimistic and positive
- We look for solutions
- We are committed to influencing and advocating for positive change



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Foster & Kinship  
Carers | SA Inc

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## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

What a year! 2019/2020 (the financial year covered by this report) has to be one of the most extraordinary years on record. Droughts, fires, and now COVID-19 challenged our state, our nation and our world in ways we could not have imagined.

Connecting Foster and Kinship Carers SA (CF&KC-SA) has been lucky though. With secure three-year government funding, and a highly competent team, a committed and hard-working board, we have come through the year in good shape. There have been challenges and changes, but there has also been consolidation, achievement - and plenty to celebrate.

Last year (2018/19) was our first year as a fully funded service. We were operating what was effectively a start-up business – getting our office properly set up, recruiting staff, establishing and documenting processes, creating and building new relationships. This year (2019/20) has been all about capitalising on that early work.

Our staff are in now in place and are experienced in the work they do, giving us the opportunity to really start to sharpen our focus on the main game – advocating for our members and for the Carer community generally.

Some of that work is visible to Carers – providing one on one advocacy, running information sessions and reference groups, preparing material for the website, and hosting events. Some of that work happens behind the scenes – preparing white papers to lobby for legislative reform; meeting with senior DCP staff, Ministers and Shadow Ministers to put forward the Carer case; representing the Carer voice at meeting and functions; developing partnerships with other agencies (for example, legal services) who are willing to provide complementary services for Carers; fundraising for the National conference; and preparing grant applications to supplement our staffing and resources.

And we have had some change.

- Our very effective and highly regarded Senior Advocate, Liz Browne, left us to take a role as Youth Justice Coordinator at the Adelaide Youth Court. We are deeply grateful for the contribution Liz made to our organization.
- Two of our longstanding board members, Donna Scott and Kate Harmer resigned after many years of service. We honoured them at our last AGM but I would like to again record their effort and impact.
- We have strengthened our board with two new appointments – Emma Anderson and Sarah Ventress – drawn from a number of fine applications. Both are Carers, and both bring other valuable skills. Emma has a back ground in early childhood education and currently works as co-facilitator of the SA Museums award winning early years program, Young Explorers. She also has experience working with Aboriginal communities on the APY lands. Sarah is a consultant with a background and international experience in strategy, cultural change and HR.
- We have invited a youth advisor, Sonja Brown, to attend board meeting. Sonja is young woman with experience living within family based care.

And then ... COVID-19 hit ..... and the changes accelerated.

- The first thing we had to do was move home. I am proud to say that our service moved seamlessly from our bricks and mortar Prospect office to a virtual working environment. I would like to thank our staff, and in particularly our CEO, Fiona Endacott, for the calm way in which this transition was implemented and embraced, and the unflustered way in which everybody went about providing 'business as usual' service for our members. I would also like to thank our staff members' families. It is no easy thing

having an office suddenly take root in your home. We are grateful for the patience and generosity of those who accommodated our staff so willingly.

- The next thing we needed to do was to see how Carers were faring. We received a great response to our surveys (thank you Carers) – which enabled us advocate for Carers particularly during the lockdown period.
- And then we had to start cancelling or postponing events – which included the agonising decision to postpone the 2020 National Foster and Kinship Care conference that was to be held in SA in September 2019 to new dates – 10-12 June 2020.

With uncertainty and change comes possibility. The challenges of COVID-19 opened our eyes to new possibilities; new ways of connecting to, and communicating with, our members and the wider Carer community. We hope (actually we plan) to come out of this crisis better than we went in.

I want to thank all those who have made that optimism possible. Our incredible staff (Fiona Endacott, Natalie Baron, Dion Zisos, Tandanya Allain, Hailey Connor, Megan McDowall and Sharee Borlace) and former staff (Liz Browne, Heather Pearce, Hayley Boswell), our hard working volunteer Board (Jan Stevens, Kelly Mathews, Terry Plane, Dr. Sara McLean, Sarah Ventress, Emma Anderson, and Hasting Chikuse) and former board members (Donna Scott and Kate Harmer), our students on placement, our peer support network, our communications volunteers, and – most importantly – our members. It has been a year to remember.

**Megan Hender**

**Chairperson**



## **CEO'S REPORT**

I am proud to present the annual report for 2019/20; a dynamic year for Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers SA. It was a year that showcased what it meant for community to become truly resilient in the face of uncertainty. I would like to remind readers of this report, our Foster & Kinship Carers embody the definition of resilience in their day to day lives navigating the child protection system; pandemic or otherwise. I openly acknowledge I drew much inspiration regarding patience, tenacity and commitment to purpose from our Carer community, when it came to navigating the complexities of COVID-19 for our business success.

It was a year that found our organisation delivering services in a truly versatile fashion, leading our Carers across SA to access support and information through virtual platforms, an increase from our previous years efforts. Our advocacy support boomed, with over a 100% increase in individual cases compared to 2018/19. Cases increased in complexity with the passage of time, the only constant being the consistent themes Carers reported; the overall lack of communication and involvement in decision making regarding their young people and the poor management of the Care Concerns process, specifically the devastating impact on Carer families as a result of this practice.

Our systemic advocacy continued to highlight critical issues where the Carer voice was not heard; specifically care concern management, Carer payments and respite entitlements. We committed to ensuring our Carers voice were captured clearly and concisely, with the ultimate goal of informing positive, lasting change within policy, practice and legislation. This is an ongoing body of work for our organisation, one that I am passionate about pursuing fiercely for the benefit of Carers across our state.

Lastly, a project I am truly proud to report on, is the recently launched Statement of Commitment for South Australian Foster & Kinship Carers. A document developed in collaboration with DCP, CAFFSA and The Honorable Minister Sanderson, recognising all stakeholders must work in partnership and value Carers as an essential and respected part of the care team for our young people under guardianship. This document was based on feedback provided by our membership regarding how they wish to be treated through the caring journey with their children; focussing on five key pillars of being **informed, supported, consulted, valued and respected**. Whilst this document is in its infancy within the sector, we are dedicated to ensuring it is integrated into all areas of communication and support with Carers, holding each signatory to account to this crucial partnership agreement.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our incredible staff and volunteer team, who have worked tirelessly to progress our strategic objectives. I thank our Board members who have expertly guided our work both professionally and passionately over the past year, ensuring the voice of Carers is at the centre of all we do. And last but by no means least, I thank every single Member of CF&KC-SA who entrust us to share their voice and advocate in times of need. We are in service to you and your families.

**Fiona Endacott**

**Chief Executive Officer**



## OUR PEOPLE

### BOARD

NAME	POSITION	DATES
Megan Hender	Chairperson	From May 2017
Jan Stevens	Vice Chairperson	From January 2019
Kelly Mathews	Secretary	From November 2017
Hastings Chikuse	Treasurer	From October 2017
Terry Harris Plane	Board member	From August 2017
Dr. Sara McLean	Board member	From April 2019
Emma Anderson	Board member	From April 2020
Sarah Ventress	Board Member	From April 2020
Sonja Brown	Shadow Board member & Youth Consultant	From April 2020
Donna Scott	Vice Chairperson	To November 2019
Kate Harmer	Secretary	To November 2019

### EMPLOYEES

NAME	POSITION	DATE JOINED
Fiona Endacott	Chief Executive Officer	November 2017
Natalie Baron	Administration & Events Coordinator	December 2016
Hailey Connor	Carer Advocate	July 2018 (currently on parental leave)
Tandanya Allain	Carer Advocate	April 2019
Dion Zisos	Carer Advocate	April 2019
Isabella Furnari	Carer Education Officer	January 2020 to June 2020
Megan McDowall	Legal Consultant	March 2020
Liz Browne	Senior Advocate	March 2019 to March 2020
Heather Pearce	Senior Advocate (position held by Sharee Borlace as of September 2020)	April 2020 to June 2020
Hayley Boswell	Legal Consultant	September 2019 to February 2020

## VOLUNTEERS

NAME	POSITION	DATE JOINED
Heidi	Peer Support Network	October 2017
Jackie	Peer Support Network	October 2017
Michelle	Peer Support Network	October 2017
Narelle	Peer Support Network	October 2017
Wendy	Peer Support Network	October 2017
Kelly	Peer Support Network	October 2017
Isabella	CF&KC-SA Volunteer	July 2019
Malcolm	Communications Volunteer	July 2019
Tom	Audio Visual & Photography Volunteer	August 2019
Susan	Peer Support Network: AKIN	March 2020
Trude	Peer Support Network: AKIN	March 2020
Kimberley	Peer Support Network: AKIN	March 2020
Liz	Grief & Transition Support Group Volunteer	April 2020
Matthew	Peer Support Network	October 2017 to September 2020

## STUDENT PLACEMENTS

NAME	POSITION	DATE JOINED
Idika Mba	Student Placement	March 2020 to June 2020
Gemma	Student Placement	July 2019 to Nov 2019
Sharda	Student Placement	July 2019 to Dec 2019

We are grateful to all our volunteers and student placement staff for their ongoing commitment to achieving our mission and vision. We benefitted from approximately **1,400 volunteer and student placement hours** as at 30/6/2020.

This is a phenomenal achievement and we are thankful for the collective skills, knowledge and experience our voluntary workforce provides for our organisation. CF&KC-SA is will continue to develop and provide volunteer and student placement opportunities to progress the future of our organisation.



## OUR ACTIVITIES

### ADVOCATE

During the 2019/20 period CF&KC-SA continued to assertively promote the voice of Carers, ensuring their recognition as a crucial part of the child protection system. Our advocacy support, both individual and systemic, provided Carers the opportunity to participate in decision making processes that would effectively impact the children and young people in their care. Our advocacy support is 100% committed to ensuring the rights of Carers are both promoted and protected throughout the child protection sector.

The Carer Advocacy Service moved into its second fully funded year of operation, continuing to operate with ease during the COVID-19 workplace restrictions. Our team pivoted their service delivery style, offering advocacy support via teleconferencing and virtual platforms.

During 2019/20 our Carer Advocacy Service recorded approximately **294 occasions of individual advocacy** with extensive behind the scenes support provided by our team:

- 866 texts sent
- 101 support sessions attended
- 1,574 emails sent
- 83 in person meetings
- 289 messages left
- 1,401 phone conversations

Our team wishes to acknowledge all DCP and agency staff who took the time to review the individual circumstances for Carer families and work towards positive outcomes. We thank all our Members and Carers who contacted CF&KC-SA and trusted us to help. Your faith in our service and fulsome feedback is gratefully appreciated.

*"It was the first time since my wife and I started fostering that we felt like anyone actually listened to us." Carer feedback on Advocacy support*

*"The service was really valuable. **Whenever I wanted information my advocate either gave the answer straight away or would call back with the information.** I found the team to be so reliable with every request for support and information."- Carer feedback on Advocacy support*

There is a tremendous requirement for advocacy and support for Foster and Kinship Carers. It requires a unique approach that is impartial, empathic, respectful, and considerate of the diverse experiences our Carers have.

Often we find Carers will require support and advocacy when things aren't going well. Being part of this journey as an Advocate is often challenging at the beginning. I believe we validate the frustration a Carer may feel and advocate from a compassionate place; one that is person centred and professional but also genuinely passionate.

Our role is crucial for Carers to feel heard. We regularly witness consistent themes for Carers (feelings such as frustration and disenfranchisement) and see the direct link this has to reinforcing their rights, both within legislation and process. From my experience Carers are solutions focussed, passionate and caring, and I am proud to support this community.

**Dion Zisos, Carer Advocate**



Our **systems advocacy** continued to focus on issues raised by Carers via information gleaned from our individual advocacy, the 2019 annual survey and data collated from calls to our 1800 number. Areas of requiring systemic change included:

1. Care Concerns: i.e. inconsistent process, poor communication by frontline staff, lack of mechanisms for reviewing determinations and the excessive length of time taken to review allegations
2. Poor end of placement practice and the negative impact on Carers
3. Respite: i.e. miscommunication of entitlements and lack of access
4. Financial agreements and Carer payments
5. Carers not receiving communication from DCP in a prompt and transparent manner, particularly after decision making that impacts Carer families
6. Unavailability and lack of transparency regarding DCP policy & procedure, references as the basis of decision making

CF&KC-SA addressed areas of systemic change by conducting Carer reference groups, information sessions, pilot support groups, lobbying with DCP directly for information and pursuing involvement in DCP reform projects

In November 2019, we released our third annual **Foster & Kinship Carer Survey** asking Carers to tell us about the challenges and successes of providing family based care. We received **210 responses from Carer households** across the state. More Foster Carers responded than Kinship Carers with 45% of respondents from regional South Australia.

Carers stated their **greatest worries** included:

- Care Concerns
- Removal of their child or young person
- Workers making decisions without Carer consultation
- Not having enough support to meet the needs of the child.

Carers also reflected their **greatest challenges** regarding their caring journey was:

- Lack of respite
- Challenging behaviours of their young people
- Inadequate support from the child protection system
- Poor communication and feeling disrespected by DCP.

With regard to **training and information** preferences, Carers requested (in order of need):

1. Behaviour management training (including managing challenging behaviours)
2. Helping their child reach their full potential
3. Dealing with responding to the impact of trauma experienced by their young person
4. Carer self-care.

We are pleased to report we have actively pursued the areas of greatest worry and challenges through tailored reference groups to provide feedback to DCP and a development of the Statement of Committeemen for South Australian Foster & Kinship Carers.

In addition to our individual and systemic advocacy activities, we were involved in many other areas of work across the child protection sector attending over **250 sector meetings**, including regular meetings with Honourable Minister Sanderson, DCP Chief Executive Cathy Taylor and other key stakeholders where we raise common issues and seek improvements to policy, process and legislation.

## CONNECT

CF&KC-SA offered several opportunities for Carers to connect through events and activities prior to the pandemic, with a focus on providing information about current issues and offering a range of opportunities to share the achievements and challenges involved in parenting within a family based care setting.

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

- **Recharge 2019**, held at the Pavilion function centre at Veale Gardens, was attended by **197 people** across 2 sessions. Guests were welcomed to the sound of a live harp performance by Lyn Johnson and enjoyed delicious food whilst sitting amongst the picturesque Veale Gardens. Attendees began their Recharge experience with a mini mindfulness session delivered by Jamie Wetherell, to set the intention for the event. Attendees heard from two fantastic guest speakers; Michael Place & Dr Sara McLean. Michael spoke about his lived experience of the care system in New York and his passion for supporting children & young people to reach their full potential through resilience building. Dr Sara McLean present key take-home messages from her recently published book "Parenting Traumatized Children with Developmental Differences" to support Carers to manage situations with a trauma informed lens.
- **Family Fun Event** at the AFL MAX, attended by **376 Members** enjoyed the opportunity to socialise with other Carers and involve all members of their family. Children and young people (and some adults) enjoyed an assortment of activities available in the nation's first immersive footy skills and entertainment centre. Once again, Raising Literacy Australia generously provided children's books and novels for our children and young people to take home as a gift on the day.
- Four **reference groups** regarding areas of systemic change for our Carers including; accessing and maintaining education for children & young people, respite, developing an initial placement checklist for when children are placed and feedback regarding the Statement of Commitment for South Australian Foster & Kinship Carers.
- Two critical pilot **support groups**; the Grief & Transition group and our AKIN Kinship group
- **Superloop 500, Fringe, Adelaide Festival, WOMAD, SA Museum and Cabaret Festival tickets** for over **385 Members** to enjoy
- September 2019 "**Carer Thank You**" **events** hosted in collaboration with the DCP across metro and regional locations to celebrate Foster & Kinship Carer week, travelling to locations including Whyalla, Port Lincoln, Port Pirie, Port Augusta, Riverland & Mt Gambier.





"The Connecting Foster and Kinship Carers SA staff showed a presence of warmth and true commitment to making life better for these children. It was great to see the friendly CF&KC-SA group again, always positive.

I just want to say how hugely grateful I am for all you do and facilitate for us and our families. **I am so proud of the jobs you are doing, and so pleased you have seen the need and taken the initiative to make a difference**" – Carer feedback AFL MAX Family Event



"Wow! We just want to say thank you to the Fringe- we were treated like VIPs! Our kids felt so special attending the Fringe event at Gluttony. It was just lovely to go to a safe space with our young people, as you can never be quite sure what their triggers may be when heading out to events. I could see the kids felt so proud to be there and had such a great time. We all laughed, including me and my husband! Usually we leave events feeling frazzled but **I cannot tell you how special it was for us to leave the Fringe event and feel like we all had a good time.** Thank you again for your generosity" – Carer H, Fringe Festival feedback





## INFORM

CF&KC-SA continued to provide high quality, relevant information to the South Australian Carer community, ensuring it was delivered in a variety of mediums to maximise accessibility.

We won two important funding grants - one from DCP, and one from the Law Foundation. The first of those grants, provided under recommendation 117 of the Nyland Royal Commission, enabled us to develop educational material which clearly described Carer rights to contribute to decision making, and their rights of review regarding decisions which affect them. The Law Foundation grant enabled us to employ a lawyer part time for 12 months to develop para legal resources for our advocates, build relationships with legal organisations and develop guides for members on legal issues.

The information and education projects CF&KC-SA delivered during 2019/20 included:

- Circulating 42 **newsletter emails** updating members on events, information and support
- Hosting seven **morning tea sessions**:
  1. Child Abuse Report Line (CARL) *presented by DCP*
  2. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) presented by NOFASD & Stewart McDougall for the Australian Centre for Child Protection
  3. Long Term Guardianship: Part 1 & Part 2 (via virtual delivery) *presented by DCP*
  4. Navigating the NDIS *presented by DCP*
  5. Respite Care *presented by DCP*
  6. LGBTIQ+: understanding issues for young people navigating gender identity
  7. Mindfulness & Carer Mental Health during a pandemic
- Published seven **Carer Guides**:
  1. Reunification Court
  2. The role of the Ombudsman
  3. Contact Arrangements Review Panel
  4. The NDIS application process
  5. How do I complain about a DCP action or decision
  6. Freedom of Information
  7. SACAT Directions Hearings

We partnered with the Bradford Institute of Advanced Education to run the first two of (soon to be) five programs delivering a **Diploma in Community Services** for our members. This program was subsidised for Carers and has now been completed by **51 of our members**. We are extremely proud to have facilitated this initiative – the first of its kind in SA and one which recognises the unique skills and experiences that Carers bring. The course has been life

changing for some Carers some of whom never believed they would complete a post school qualification. It has led some Carers to paid employment, others to further study - and has (in many cases) inspired the children and young people in their care.



*"It was an incredible opportunity & I will forever be indebted to you guys. I'm now currently completing my bachelor of human services at uni because of this course." Carer student feedback*

*"Well done (CF&KC-SA) keep it going and we all might have the courage and the means to make a difference with formal training, I personally have noticed a difference in how I was treated once I became qualified I feel they value my opinion more now at DCP."*  
Carer student feedback

*"It was truly fabulous, we had support, and common interests, as we were all Carers and we related so much to each other, it was done well and we had a fun time while learning thankyou again it has literally changed my life."* Carer student feedback



And lastly, we worked with the Department and other agencies to bring the **Statement of Commitment for South Australian Foster & Kinship Carers** to completion and publication. This long-awaited, landmark document sets out the DCP's commitment to Carers – to ensure Carers are **informed, supported, consulted, valued and respected**. It is a document that we refer to every day – and one to which we hold the Department.

In December 2019 Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers SA secured funding from DCP to develop education material to clearly identify Foster and Kinship Carer rights to contribute to decision making, and their rights of review regarding decisions which affect them. This funding was as a result of **Recommendation 117** provided by Commissioner Nyland, and complemented our already fantastic work delivering Recommendation 116, the Carer Advocacy Service.

I began my role as Carer Education Officer in January 2020, scoping the education documents required by our Carer community. This information was sourced through the CF&KC-SA annual survey, feedback from advocacy cases and continual conversations with the Carer Advocacy team. Once the main areas of need were identified, we met with multiple stakeholders regarding content for Carer education material. We hosted Reference Groups to identify the gaps and formulate the resources required. An incredible outcome I was excited to be spearhead was the Initial Placement Checklist Reference Group, identifying the information Carers deem necessary to have within the first crucial days and weeks of placement of a young person in their care.

My role also encompassed planning education sessions (morning tea sessions) directly relating to topics Carers requested further support and information. From these sessions, education materials (our Carer Guides) were developed and published on the CF&KC-SA website for Carers to access when required. These Guides will be reviewed regularly to ensure the information is current and relevant for Carers.

The Carer Education Officer role was such an important position within the organisation. I was able to create resources and organise many events for the Carer community, which was amazing to be a part of. I am very grateful CF&KC-SA reached out to me to complete this role and can't wait to see all resources continually used in the future.

**Isabella Furnari, Carer Education Officer**



## SUPPORT

Over the 2019/20 year we worked innovatively to ensure Carers were supported consistently via telephone calls, emails, website enquiries or Facebook contact, particularly during workplace restrictions imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our team relished the opportunity to support Carers in a virtual capacity, increasing opportunities to engage in a virtual capacity.

During 2019-20 CF&KC-SA:

- undertook **1,645 phone calls** (inclusive of both 1800 & Carer Advocacy calls)
- replied to **51 general email, event and website enquiries**
- engaged with a growing Facebook community – **1,297 Likes** and **1,327 Followers** as at 30 June 2020

Topics for CF&KC-SA support services emerged via phone calls received through our 1800 number, our individual advocacy cases in addition to the Carer voice captured in our annual survey. Two crucial support services that emerged through these pathways focussed specifically on the needs of **Kinship Carers** and the **grief and loss** Carers experience when placements end.

In November 2019, as a result of a conversation between one of our valued Foster Carer members and a Carer Advocate, the **Grief and Transition group** came to fruition. Our Carer shared their devastating “end of placement” experiences and the unrecognised grief and loss they and the Carer community often face. This support group provides an opportunity for Carers to share and explore their emotions with people who have had similar experiences. It is facilitated by CF&KC-SA volunteers and staff and meets on a monthly basis

Due to the often temporary nature of Foster and Kinship care, Carers may often experience grief and loss when a child or young person leaves their care. This grief is not well recognised and understood within the wider community. As a result, it reduces Carers abilities to openly grieve and express the depths of their emotions in a space where they feel safe, supported and understood.

The key aim of the group is to provide a safe place for Carers to express their emotions where they feel their grief is understood and validated whilst integrating strategies and resources to support them to cope with the grief and loss that they are experiencing. Regular Carer attendees of the group are working together on projects to reach out and further support Carers who are dealing with similar experiences.

A current project involves preparing a care package that can be provided to Carers at the end of a placement to send a message that they are not alone and validate their experience of grief and loss.

The group has had great success with positive feedback and outcomes for attendees. Information shared by this support group will be used to guide our systemic lobbying regarding the treatment, support and retention of Foster & Kinship Carers.

**Tandanya Allain, Carer Advocate**



CF&KC-SA would like to extend a tremendous thank you to our previous Senior Advocate, Liz Browne, for co-facilitating the Grief & Transition Group and continuing to donate her time in a voluntary capacity. Thank you Liz, we are extremely grateful.



*"I have found the CF&KC-SA's Grief & Transition group so supportive and really transformative. Finding others who fully appreciated what I was going through has made such a difference. The sad fact is that most people just do not understand the immense loss we may feel when a placement ends, so we are not given the space to grieve or any support. **We need this space and understanding and this group provides this.***

*I hope that others can now find the support, understanding and space to grieve so that they too can transition to a new and easier way of being". Carer/Volunteer Attendee*



*"Losing a foster child and missing them terribly is a concept that most would not understand. Most people (including DCP workers) don't understand why you foster or that **you do love them as your own and that your grief and loss is real.***

*I feel that a kind gesture, a hug and someone to listen, will help with the wounds and that support and compassion will help with healing. Anything is possible when there are people with you to support. We are all capable of listening, to hear and giving compassion and the effort of giving that care is fulfilling and it makes me feel worthy." Carer/Volunteer Attendee*

## **OUR MEMBERS**

Members play an important part in shaping the work of CF&KC-SA and improving the system for Carer families across South Australia. The support of our Members ensures we advocate on the most relevant issues facing our Carers, and we can speak with confidence to the issues that need improvement, and the services that need to be developed.

We are pleased to report as of 30 June 2020, CF&KC-SA had **898 active Members**, a 14% increase in our membership from the 2018/19 year. We welcome all of our 113 new members who joined us during the past year



## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

2020 has been a good year for CF&KC-SA. Total income of \$605,412 represents an increase of 28% over the \$473,940 reported last year.

Included in the income is \$30,127 Cashflow Boost from Federal Government as part of COVID-19 assistance package, and \$97,273 conference sponsorship. All grant funding was expended in accordance with funding agreements.

We would like to thank Super Funds Accounting Pty Ltd for independently auditing these financial statements.

We also recognise the substantial work of Fiona Endacott and her team for their dedication to ensure CF&KC-SA finances in good order.

**Hastings Chikuse**

*Treasurer*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

CF&KC-SA would like to acknowledge our funding body and we thank the **Department for Child Protection** for contributing funds towards this Program.

### **THANK YOU**

- **The Honorable Rachel Sanderson, Minister for Child Protection** for their ongoing support of Foster & Kinship Carers across South Australia
- **Peter Monk from Inveress Web Development** for the ongoing web development and support for CF&KC-SA
- **The Law Foundation of South Australia** for their generous grant to ensure Carers can access and understand their legal rights
- **Foster Care Queensland and Foster & Kinship Carers Association Northern Territory** for organisational mentoring and guidance
- **Bradford Institute of Advance Education** for developing and providing an incredible qualification opportunity for our Carers
- **Raising Literacy Australia** for donation of books for children and young people at our events
- **Claire Richards** for crafting and donating a bespoke piece of artwork depicting Foster & Kinship Carer families
- **Uncle Michael O'Brien and Uncle Lewis O'Brien** for offering their incredibly meaningful cultural acknowledgements for our Carer events
- **Hood Sweeney** for providing the necessary IT support to ensure our Carer Advocacy Service is mobile, agile and secure
- **WOMAD** for the generous donation of day pass tickets for our Carer families to enjoy the sights and sounds of such an iconic festival
- **Adelaide Festival, Adelaide Fringe, Cabaret Festival** for the generous donation of tickets for our Carer families to attend various events across the state
- **Tourism SA** for the generous donation of Superloop tickets, inclusive of box seating and a pit visit with the drivers and their cars
- **Circus Quirkus** for the generous donation of tickets
- **Andrew and Anne, Barristers at Selby Street Chambers** for their pro bono legal support

**And, THANK YOU also** to the multitude of individuals and organisations who have taken the time to meet with CF&KC-SA during the past financial year and shown their support for the organisation in various ways: by offering advice, lending support, sharing views about the past and the future. Your generosity has further enhanced our growth and development in so many ways and is sincerely appreciated.