

## MEDIA RELEASE

10 September 2021

## Peak body acknowledges Foster & Kinship Carer Week: 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Foster & Kinship Carer Week provides an opportunity to acknowledge publicly the outstanding, but largely unrecognised, contribution Foster and Kinship Carers make to Australian society.

Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers SA Chief Executive Fiona Endacott welcomes the opportunity to recognise the extraordinary level of care, dedication, love and support for children who, for many and varied reasons, cannot live with their biological families.

"We work with, advocate for and support Foster & Kinship Carers every day of the year, and we know the highs and lows they experience with children in their care, so many of whom have complex and difficult physical, psychological, intellectual and emotional needs," Ms Endacott says.

"As the peak representative body for Foster and Kinship Carers in South Australia we're acutely aware of the remarkable degree of dedication they put into offering these children the best chance of achieving their potential and having productive and fulfilling lives.

"Like all parents, Carers are devoted to children in care all day, every day.

"This is truly about love and care, but it should also be pointed out that what Carers do for our community saves the State many hundreds of millions of dollars every year."

CF&KC-SA provides a voice for Carers, particularly those having difficulty finding their way through the maze of government regulations affecting their fostering and caring activities.

Ms Endacott says the organisation advises Carers on their rights and helps them deal with sometimes bewildering bureaucratic machinations.

"We have enormous respect for the devotion Carers put into improving children's lives, and we understand the sacrifices Carers make, and we try to ensure their lives aren't made even more difficult through external interference. In the vast majority of Carers' households the child or children in care are embraced as family members, and CF&KC-SA, and the community generally, can only be thankful for that."

For further comment or information please call Fiona Endacott, CEO of CF&KC-SA on 0447 422 328.