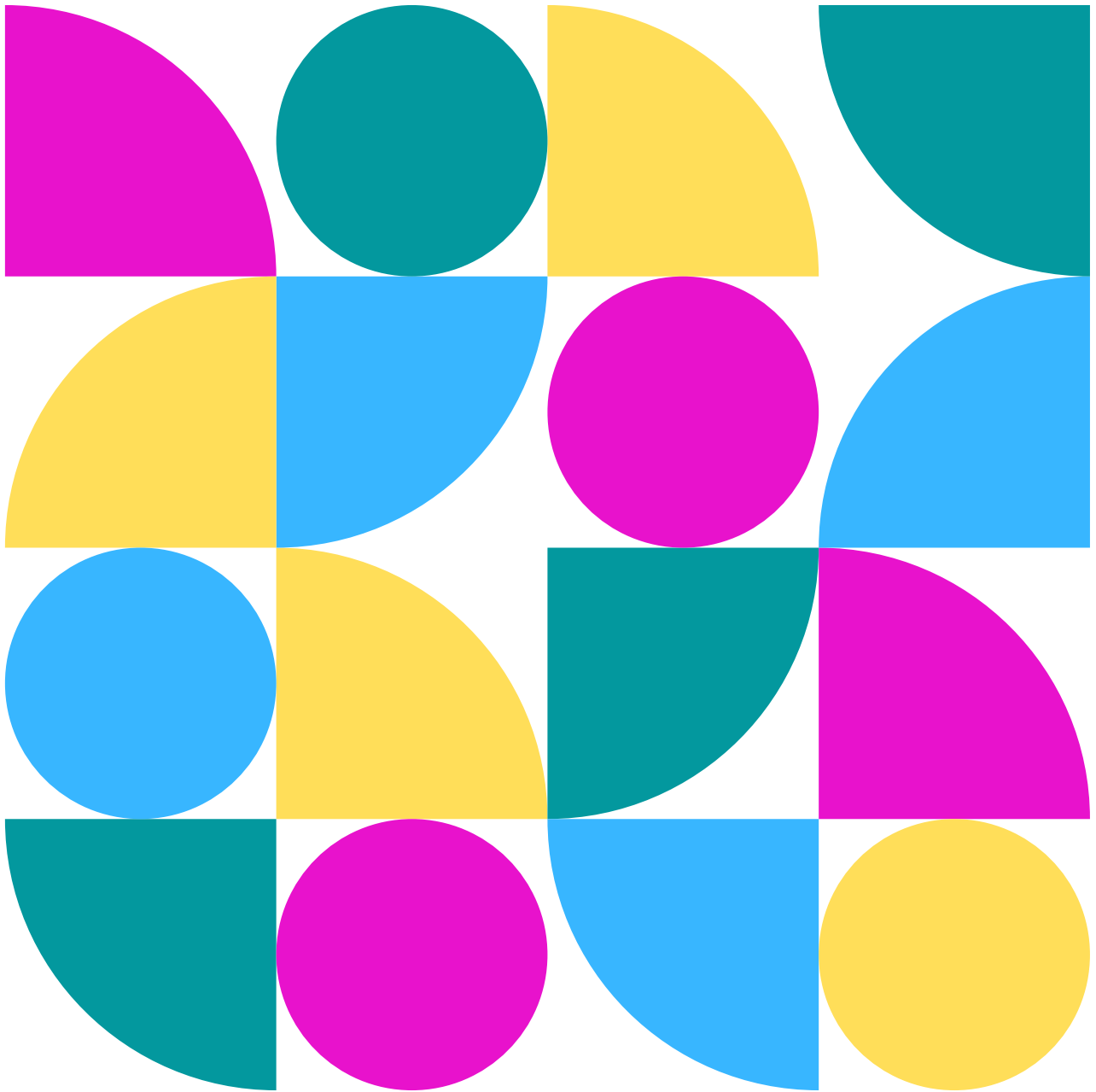


ANNUAL REPORT

2021/22



Connecting
Foster & Kinship
Carers | SA Inc
advocate • support • connect • inform

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.



(above): Berri landscape taken by Isabella Furnari, Carer Advocate, on our 2022 regional road trip

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

It is my great pleasure to commend this annual report to you. It is a comprehensive, and I think impressive, round up of the work our organisation undertook in 2021/2022. I hope it gives you a good understanding of both what happens day to day, and our organisation's longer term ambitions.

There are a few things that I would, as Chair, like to highlight or mention.

- I would like to acknowledge the work our organisation, and others, undertook in relation to the Independent Inquiry into Foster and Kinship Care. The Inquiry was called in December 2021, commenced its work early this year and took up a significant amount of our time and resources. In responding to the terms of the Inquiry, CF&KC-SA was able to draw on the experience of our Carer board members, the knowledge and experience of our staff and the wealth of information provided by our annual Carer survey. But the Inquiry also gave us the impetus and the opportunity to consult widely with our Carer community through a number of face to face and on line forums (both in the city and in the regions). We were determined to ensure that our submission to the Inquiry captured the voices and expressed the opinions of our Carer members. I hope those of you who contributed to it feel that we met that ambition. An enormous amount of blood, sweat and tears went into preparing the CF&KC-SA submission. I would like to thank the many Carers who contributed, and our staff (particularly Fiona Endacott, Jacque Nevin and Emma Feagan) for their work.

I would also like to thank, and honour, very many individual Carers who made their own submissions to the Inquiry. Your lived experience of the Care system is second to none. And I know (from speaking to a number of you) that your purpose in writing a submission was not only to have your own story heard, but was also in service of the broader Carer community. We continue to press for the release of the report – and will consult again when that happens.

- I want to boast a little about our commitment to providing Carers with professional qualifications (Diploma of Community Services). It is not for everyone, but those who have taken up the opportunity, speak incredibly highly of the course, the fact they can attend it at no cost, and (most particularly) the cohort of friends and supporters they gather along the way. Can I thank David Bradford of the Bradford Institute for bringing the idea to us, and Fiona Endacott for embracing it. Can I also offer my particular thanks to Natalie Baron who provides the administrative support that ensures it actually happens. This work changes lives.
- I would also like to acknowledge our staff more broadly. You will not meet a more dedicated group of people – committed to the wellbeing of Carers and the children in their care. Our advocates are the heart and soul of our organisation. It is their work that makes us who we are. I am deeply grateful for all that they bring to their roles.
- And it would be remiss of me not to mention our Board – a majority of whom are also Carers. Not content with devoting themselves to the children in their care, they give their time (unpaid) to provide guidance and oversight to the organisation and support to me. We are a skills based board – so, in addition to lived experience of the care system, board members bring a wide range of professional expertise. Given we are a small organisation we rely heavily on this volunteer support. I would like to make particular mention of Terry Plane – who resigned from the board late last year after 5 years of service. Terry was (and is) a media legend. His assistance on all things media, communication and politics was invaluable – as was (and is) his wisdom and common sense.

This is my last report as Chairperson. I will be resigning from the board at the December 2022 meeting, when the board will appoint its new office bearers. I am not a Carer, so at the time I joined to board 5 ½ years ago I really had very little understanding of the Carer community.

My time on the board has been an eye-opener, to say the least. Here I have met, and had the honour to work alongside, some of the best and most impressive people I have ever met. I remain in awe of the work they, and all of our members, do on behalf of South Australia's vulnerable children. I'm deeply grateful for the opportunity this last 5 ½ years has given me to serve this community.

On a personal note I would like to thank Fiona Endacott, our CEO, for her hard work, for her forbearance and – above all - for her friendship.

I am confident that I leave the organisation in good shape and in good hands.

Megan Hender

Chairperson



CEO REPORT

I am thrilled to share with our membership the achievements contained within the 2021/22 annual report. It was a tremendous year for CF&KC-SA, without question the Carer voice was raised loud and clear throughout our many determined efforts.

We saw research published, internship projects developed, election lobbying, increased advocacy support, a foundational Inquiry submission and an inaugural child protection and the law training day delivered for legal practitioners. Each of these initiatives took into consideration the tremendous amounts of feedback and input provided to CF&KC-SA by our family based Carer members. Feedback pertaining to Carer payments, Care Concerns, respite access and the lack of support and consultation experienced by Carers. We put the rubber to the road, using the Carer voice as the basis of our lobbying efforts, to create change in the sector and ensure this input shapes policy, practice and legislation.

Some stand out successes I am proud to reflect on include our “pre-election asks” process we embarked on in the latter part of 2021, whereby we began lobbying state parliamentarians in both the upper and lower house, major parties and independents, to consider the needs of Foster and Kinship Carers as part of their policy platforms. We were pleased to find that all parliamentarians (aside from three independents that did not respond) were in support of our seven election asks, with a view to support our requests should their party be successfully elected in the March 2022 election. I am pleased to share that as part of our regular quarterly Ministerial meetings we have initiated a progress report update for the current government against their support of our election asks. These updates will be shared with the membership quarterly.

In early 2022, Dr Damien Riggs successfully published an article based on our Grief and Transition support group, using the input from our Carer attendees who bravely shared their experiences of grief and loss after a young person leaves their care. The article is titled *“There’s no disenfranchisement when you’re sitting in that room”: Evaluating a South Australian loss and grief support group for foster and kinship carers* and was published in the Children & Youth Services Review journal with CF&KC-SA listed as co-authors.

Throughout the year CF&KC-SA confidently solidified our membership within the National Foster & Kinship Care Collective, a brand new National committee consisting of the peak Carer bodies interstate. The Collective now has representation from all states and territories (aside from NSW which does not have a peak). We developed a strategic plan to progress areas of mutual advocacy and provide consistency in the National Foster & Kinship Care Conferences.

The most important element in achieving all the projects listed within this annual report, is without doubt, our team of highly dedicated, passionate and fierce employees. I wish to personally thank Sharee, Tandanya, Isabella, Natalie, Jacquie and Emma for their commitment to ensuring the Carer voice is heard and their rights upheld. The team culture at CF&KC-SA is strong and supportive, as demonstrated in no turnover of staff. Our team provide a unified front yet are not afraid to challenge each other to ensure the best possible outcomes for Carers.

I want to extend my sincerest gratitude to our volunteer Board members, intern students and placement students who each contributed to our outstanding achievements this year. A very special thank you must be extended to Megan Hender, the Chair of our Board. Megan has worked tirelessly to ensure the governance of CF&KC-SA is impeccable, and supported my work executing the strategic plan with complete generosity, kindness and wisdom. Thank you Megan.

Lastly, thank you to our membership, who continue to put their faith and confidence in CF&KC-SA as their peak representative body. I thank you for investing your precious time in completing our surveys, attending our reference groups and sharing your feedback on our strategic activities. Your input and continued support is the bedrock of our work.

Fiona Endacott

Chief Executive Officer



(above) Dr Sarah Moulds presenting at the inaugural CF&KC-SA Legal Training Day, Nov 2021

OUR PEOPLE

BOARD

NAME	POSITION	DATES
Megan Hender	Chairperson	From May 2017
Emma Anderson	Vice Chairperson	From April 2020
Kelly Mathews	Secretary	From November 2017
Phoebe Zander	Treasurer	From February 2021
Terry Harris Plane	Board member	From August 2017
Dr. Sara McLean	Board member	From April 2019
Sarah Ventress	Board Member	From April 2020
Felicity Graham	Board Youth Consultant	From September 2021
Jan Stevens	Vice Chairperson	<i>To August 2021</i>
<i>Sonja Brown</i>	<i>Board Youth Consultant</i>	<i>To August 2021</i>

EMPLOYEES

NAME	POSITION	DATE JOINED
Fiona Endacott	Chief Executive Officer	November 2017
Natalie Baron	Administration & Events Coordinator	December 2016
Sharee Borlace	Senior Advocate	September 2020
Tandanya Allain	Carer Advocate	April 2019
Isabella Furnari	Carer Advocate	May 2021
Jacquie Nevin	Legal Consultant	March 2021
Emma Feagan	Project Officer	January 2022



STUDENT PLACEMENTS & INTERNSHIPS

NAME	POSITION	DATE JOINED
<i>Emma Feagan</i>	<i>Internship (Adelaide Uni)</i>	<i>March 2021 to July 2021</i>
<i>Anita Chaplin</i>	<i>Internship (Adelaide Uni)</i>	<i>Aug 2021 to Dec 2021</i>
<i>Ruby Preece</i>	<i>Internship (Adelaide Uni)</i>	<i>Aug 2021 to Nov 2021</i>
<i>Sharee Borlace</i>	<i>Student Placement</i>	<i>Aug 2021 to Oct 2021</i>
<i>Sharon Mann</i>	<i>Student Placement</i>	<i>Aug 2021 to Nov 2021</i>
<i>Niamh Keller</i>	<i>Legal Volunteer</i>	<i>Jan 2022 to June 2022</i>
<i>Jasmina Polcino</i>	<i>Student Placement</i>	<i>Feb 2022 to June 2022</i>

During 2021/22 we benefitted from **over 2,160 volunteer and student placement hours**. This is an outstanding achievement and one we are proud to celebrate. The Board and staff at CF&KC-SA express their sincerest gratitude to all our volunteers and student placement staff for donating their time, skill and expertise to progress our strategic plan.

For my first placement in Master of Social Work, I was lucky enough to be placed at Connecting Foster and Kinship Carers SA. The team are just incredible. They are so welcoming, and I felt included and supported the entire time.

They are patient, passionate and hardworking. It was a unique opportunity as a student for me to witness advocacy at both the individual and systemic level. It is a placement for students to really comprehend how theory is put into practice and is a fantastic learning opportunity.

I worked on a project while I was there, calling all of the graduates from the diploma. Hearing the 100% positive feedback from the Carers about their studies and how their lives have changed since was incredibly rewarding to hear.

Sharon Mann, Masters of Social Work student placement



Our volunteer workforce undertook research projects through internships from Adelaide University, student placement roles through UniSA and Flinders University and delivered a vital support group for Carers experiencing grief and loss. CF&KC-SA will continue to develop and provide volunteer and student placement opportunities to progress the future of our organisation and as our crucial contribution to developing a skilled child protection workforce for South Australia.

We extend a special thank you to our volunteer Liz Browne, for her support and facilitation of our Grief and Transition Support Group. Liz finished her volunteer facilitator role in November 2021.

Intern research

During this reporting period we were fortunate to have three Adelaide University interns donate their time to develop research reports for CF&KC-SA. Questions for consideration were supplied to the University faculty, which were shared with students via a portal. Students interested in undertaking an unpaid internship with CF&KC-SA could apply directly to the university and then sit an interview with Fiona Endacott.

CF&KC-SA hosted three interns over the 12 month reporting period, each presenting sizeable research projects for publication to our membership. Interns spent time in our Prospect office, speaking with team members and research their papers diligently. Interns were connected with various sector partners including DCP representative, to ensure their research was accurate and robust. All project papers are available on our website and was circulated with Ministers, parliamentarians, and sector partners as part of our ongoing systemic advocacy.

“The True Cost of Caring for South Australian Foster & Kinship Carers” by Emma Feagan. This report shed light on the financial costs for carers in South Australia, supporting our organisational hypothesis that Carers are out of pocket when it comes to providing care for children and young people under guardianship.

“Keeping Aboriginal Children Connected to Culture” by Anita Chaplin. Anita’s report explored the legislative provisions currently in place in South Australia, identifying if Aboriginal children and young people are kept with Indigenous family members and what it would take to prevent another Stolen Generation.

“Foster and Kinship Carers’ rights to review government decision: jurisdictional tangles and unacceptable realities” by Ruby Preece. Ruby’s research critically explored South Australian carers’ rights to review government decisions about children in their care, justifying the importance of legislative review rights for carers.

The Board and staff at CF&KC-SA are thoroughly delighted with the outcomes from each of our intern placements.



(above) Fiona Endacott (CF&KC-SA CEO) with Emma Feagan.

(left) Ruby Preece and Anita Chaplin

OUR ACTIVITIES

ADVOCATE

During the 2021/22 period CF&KC-SA continued to clearly and confidently promote the voice of Carers, ensuring the Carer community is recognised as a crucial part of the child protection system. Our advocacy support, both individual and systemic, continued to provide Carers with the opportunity to participate in decisions that impact the children and young people in their care, as well as ensuring Carers rights are promoted and protected.

Our Carer Advocacy Service moved into its fourth year of operation as a fully funded service, continuing to operate at two levels; individual and systemic. Advocacy continued with a significant uptake of cases, as Carers across SA progressively became aware of the support provided by our advocate team. During 2021/22 our Carer Advocacy Service recorded approximately **488 occasions of individual advocacy, inclusive of our 'inform and connect' service.**

- 1,339 texts sent
- 2,878 emails sent
- 233 in person meetings
- 1,839 phone conversations and website responses

A combined total of more than **3,551 hours** of support provided by three part time advocates.

The Carer Advocacy Team wishes to acknowledge the strong partnership approach to supporting Carers with the DCP and agency staff across South Australia, who took the time to review the individual circumstances for Carer families and work towards positive outcomes. Our team operates with pride and respect with all stakeholders, ensuring the pillars of the Statement of Commitment for Foster & Kinship Carers is the foundation for all advocacy cases.

We once again thank all our Members and Carers who contacted CF&KC-SA over the past 12 months and trusted us to help. Your faith in our service and fulsome feedback is gratefully appreciated.

"I felt like my voice was heard and supported in a guided way but also they allowed me to make decisions which is incredibly empowering. I also felt listened to in an encouraging way and appreciate that very much." – *Carer feedback*

"I loved the service because of the personal interactions, assertiveness, and the ways forward offered by the advocacy team. I like the work they do about systemic issues and their broad approach towards the system. I think they are experienced, positive, affirming, and have helped my feelings be validated and heard when in times of conflict with DCP. I trust them, they have a broad and personal approach, and I refer people to them all the time. They are inclusive of carers in broader systems – they have a systems approach, and are increasingly affective with stakeholders. I am fully satisfied with [the Advocacy team] service." – *Carer feedback*

"I felt the service was personalised and the advice was tailored to my needs – not generic. I was provided with a follow up, and a procedure of what to do from now." – *Carer feedback*

"I personally have been having a lot of advocacy, especially in a DCP sessions. They are across all the issues. The advocate raises issues and knows how to raise things appropriately. The advocates are personally supportive and reflective with me and are helpful in making suggestions to me. I know that they will use all of it to inform a systems approach within the organisation." – *Carer feedback*

Leading the Connecting Foster and Kinship Advocacy Team I consider a great privilege to work alongside such courageous, generous, resilient and openhearted Carers in our community. Our team are very aware of the adversity faced by Foster and Kinship Carers and share a passion in working alongside Carers to ensure their voices are heard and their rights upheld.

This year we have had seen a significant increase of Carers engagement with the Advocacy Service, that reinforces the necessity of the service and the ongoing complex issues that Carers face in providing care for vulnerable children and young people.

On an individual level, the advocacy team are working alongside Carers to empower them with knowledge, support / advocacy so they are appropriately heard and involved in relevant decision-making processes that impact the children and young people in their care.

The consistent themes that arise through the individual advocacy helps to guide our Systemic Advocacy which is provided to the Department each quarter. Some of these continued themes include: Ensuring that the relevant legislation and practice is followed i.e. Adequate and meaningful Carer consultation is sought in the decision making process; Process and Practice around Care Concerns is followed, information sharing occurs, and that the Foster and Kinship Care Statement of Commitment is upheld by all stakeholders.

Whilst change can be slow and incremental, the Advocacy Team are committed to their work with the Carer Community and continue to push for results for all Carers and the children and young people in their care.

Sharee Borlace, Senior Advocate



"I have used your service 3 times now and am absolutely ecstatic with everything that you do." – *Carer feedback*

Our **systems advocacy** continued to focus on persistent issues raised by Carers via the individual advocacy service, our 2021 annual survey and pertinent information shared from calls to our 1800 number. Areas of consistent concern requiring systemic change included:

1. The at times, challenging relationship/power in balance between the Carer, the child/young person, the support agency, and DCP, needs to be improved through consistent service delivery.
2. Carers want transparency in their communication with all stakeholders in the child protection system.
3. Carers are afraid to ask for support out of fear of care concerns or having their child or young person removed from their care.
4. Carers want Carer payments (and superannuation), and support systems (respite care) to be instated/increased.
5. Carers are unhappy with the high turnover of case workers and having to retell their stories.
6. Carers want better training to manage/support trauma and challenging behaviours in children and young people.
7. Carers need better systems in place for respite care.
8. Carers want repercussions for the abuse of powers in the system and complaints processes they can trust.

9. Carers want to be heard and seen as experts in the lives of the children and young people they care for.

CF&KC-SA addressed the aforementioned areas of systemic change by way of reference groups, information sessions, bespoke support groups, lobbying with DCP directly for information and pursuing involvement in the Independent Inquiry into Foster and Kinship Care.

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 **302 sector meetings**, including regular meetings with The Honourable Minister Katrine Hildyard, Minister for Child Protection; Ms Rachel Sanderson, previous Minister for Child Protection; Ms Penny Wright, previous Guardian for Children & Young People; Ms Helen Connelly, Commissioner for Children & Young People and Department for Child Protection executive team members including DCP Chief Executive Cathy Taylor and other key stakeholders where we raise common issues and seek improvements to policy, process and legislation.



(left) Fiona Endacott (CF&KC-SA CEO) and Megan Hender (Board Chair, CF&KC-SA) with Mr Josh Teague, Shadow Attorney General and Shadow Minister for Child Protection at Parliament House, 27 May 2022

(right) Fiona Endacott (CF&KC-SA CEO) and Helen Connelly (Commissioner for Children & Young People) 25 June 2022



SUPPORT

Our support services spanned across South Australia, reaching Carers via telephone calls, emails, website enquiries and Facebook contact. The team demonstrated their skill and professionalism supporting Carers both virtually and face to face.

During the 2021-22 year, CF&KC-SA:

- recorded **1,300 phone calls** (inclusive of both 1800 & Carer Advocacy calls)
- replied to **82 general email, event and website enquiries**
- engaged with a growing Facebook community – **1,625 Likes** and **1,686 Followers** as at 30 June 2022
- connected with **1,105 Members** via regular Member emails about CF&KC-SA events, free ticket opportunities and relevant information pertaining to Foster & Kinship care from local and national organisations
- monthly Grief & Transition **support groups**

Topics for CF&KC-SA support services emerge 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. We continued to deliver the extremely successful Grief and Transition Group, supporting Carers through end of placement, exploring grief and loss through a restorative practice lens.

The Grief and Transition Support Group continues to provide an important role in acknowledging, validating and processing the grief and loss experienced by Foster and Kinship Carers. This year has seen a change in the facilitation of the Group. Lorraine Joy, who is a Foster Carer and long-time attendee of the group, has generously volunteered her time and energy to facilitate the monthly meetings. Lorraine has undertaken training in Restorative Justice Practice which provides the underpinning principles utilised to navigate the sessions. Lorraine is passionate about providing support to her fellow carers and she does so with such care and passion. We at Connecting Foster and Kinship Carers SA are truly grateful for Lorraine's involvement and see the handover of the role as an appropriate transition in the evolution of the group. Moving forward Connecting Foster and Kinship Carers plan to explore further funding options in order to deliver the group to carers across the regions.

"Many carers have experienced enormous challenges, they have been exhausted, heartbroken, confused, disrespected, not listened to and even angry.....this is just the life as a carer.

Carer facilitation of the Grief and Transition Group offers a SAFE space where carers can speak their truth without fear of judgment, letting free built up emotions and knowing they are not alone. Broken Carers are acknowledged with great understanding of their disenfranchised grief from the hole left in their daily life after a young person living in their home, that needed love, support and consistency is gone. There is no better support for a carer than another carer!"

Lorraine Joy, Grief and Transition Group Facilitator



CONNECT

CF&KC-SA offered several opportunities for Carers to connect through events and activities, 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, which also included **190 complimentary tickets** donated to CF&KC-SA (to the value of \$3,400) who then distributed to Foster & Kinship Carer families:

- **Family Fun Event** at Funtopia in April, attended by 26 Carer families (70 Carers & 68 children & young people) who enjoyed the opportunity to connect with other Carers and involve all members of their family. Children and young people enjoyed an assortment of activities in Climbing World, Playground World and a special Baby World too. Along with CF&KC-SA staff, the Guardian for Children & Young People team joined us (along with their mascot Oog!) and Fabian from the Create Foundation provided badge making fun for all
- Attended CREATE Foundation sibling events
- Adelaide Christmas Pageant - 28 tickets donated by SA Power Networks
- Adelaide Crows Corporate Box – 13 tickets donated by SA Power Networks
- Adelaide Fringe donated tickets to the following shows:
 - 9 families attended SkySong (48 tickets)
 - 20 families attended 360 Allstars (50 tickets)
 - 8 families attended Mt Gambier Family Fringe (38 tickets)
- CF&KC-SA AGM and Open Board Meeting (Nov21)
- Carer Reference Groups:
 - Superannuation (Sept21)
 - Parental Entitlements (Sept 21)
 - Statement of Commitment (Oct21)

Thanks to the wonderful generosity of Heather Croall, Adelaide Fringe CEO, Lauren Finch, Adelaide Fringe Executive Assistant, the Adelaide Fringe Community Donor circle and Louise Adams from Mt Gambier Fringe. Their collective generosity offered 37 Carer families the opportunity to attend metro and regional Fringe festivities, free of charge.

I feel honoured to be part of a passionate team who support and advocate for Carers. Through regular Member emails we share information to help keep Carers informed and also support Carers to further their knowledge and education by coordinating our many Carer Information Sessions and the Diploma of Community Services.

I am always looking to create opportunities for Carer families to connect and share experiences through complimentary tickets to various events in Adelaide, along with our Recharge and Family Fun Events. I love talking with Carers to hear what this means for their families, it is honestly the favourite part of my role and I look forward to providing more opportunities in 2022-23.

Natalie Baron, Administration & Events Coordinator



"It was really nice to have a free event we could go to and for the kids to be involved in. To have the event directly aimed at children was really nice. Thank you to the organisers, it was much appreciated" – Helen, Carer

"I loved it! It was amazing! More of an intimate sort of show that we wouldn't have had the opportunity to have otherwise, I also loved that we were able to meet other foster carers" - Emma, Carer

"It was really good, was nice to see other carers there and was nice to take my sensory child there, so smaller group environment worked better for us rather than a big environment" – Krystal, Carer

CF&KC-SA Family Fun Event at Funtopia in April 2022 (L-R: Tandanya Allain, Natalie Baron, Fiona Endacott, OOG, Isabella Furnari, Jacque Nevin, Jasmina Polcino)



It means the world to receive complimentary tickets, as they aren't cheap and sometimes I want to take the kids to things like this but worry they won't enjoy it or become overwhelmed with the environment so am cautious about making that sort of purchase – Allison, Carer



INFORM

CF&KC-SA continued to inform our South Australian Carer membership through a variety of mediums to maximise accessibility. Member emails, information sessions, carer workshops and Carer guides were provided throughout the year, covering a number of topics requested by our Carers. The information CF&KC-SA supplied during 2021/22 included:

- **42 newsletter emails** updating members on events, information and support
- **8 Carer Information Sessions** and **12 Carer workshops**:
 - Information Session with Penny Wright, Guardian for Children & Young People (Jul21)
 - My Child and Me, Parenting SA Workshop (Aug21)
 - Living with Young People, Parenting SA Workshop (Aug21)
 - CyberSafety presented by Parenting SA Workshop (Nov21)
 - Independent Inquiry into Foster & Kinship Care: an overview (Feb22)
 - Independent Inquiry into Foster & Kinship Care Group Discussions (Mar/Apr22)
 - FASD
 - Care Concerns
 - Carer Payments
 - Meaningful consultation in decision making
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Carers
 - Therapeutic Supports
 - Self-care and the Inquiry: Prioritising our wellbeing
 - Discussion on existing complaints mechanisms within the DCP
 - Non-Aboriginal Carers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children & young people
 - Regional Carer Information Sessions in Berri, Mt Gambier, Pt Augusta Whyalla, Pt Pirie and Pt Broughton (Mar/Apr22)
 - “Being a Dad” Carer Information Session presented by DHS Families Growing Together (Apr22)
 - “My Child & Me” and “Living with Young People” presented by DHS Families Growing Together (May22)

During the 2021/22 reporting period we maintained **18 Carer Guides** (listed below) all available on our website for Carers to access when required. We published a brand new, much anticipated Carer guide on the Care Concerns process, a guide well used by our team and Carer members.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. The role of a support person | 11. External review at SACAT |
| 2. Contact Arrangements Review Panel | 12. Reviewable Decisions |
| 3. Reunification Court | 13. Understanding the Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017 |
| 4. How do I complain about a DCP action or decision? | 14. What is a Care Team meeting |
| 5. The role of the Ombudsman | 15. The Carer Non Approval Process |
| 6. Freedom of Information | 16. Long Term Guardianship Specified Person Application process |
| 7. The NDIS process application | 17. What is a Complex Case Review Meeting |
| 8. The Youth Court | 18. The Care Concerns Process |
| 9. Wills & Estate Planning | |
| 10. How to draft a SACAT application | |

In addition to our traditional process of informing Carers we added a regional roadshow to our calendar of events. In early 2022 our Carer Advocacy Team packed their bags and hit the road to visit several locations across regional South Australia. The team were thrilled to meet Carers and sector partners in Berri, Mount Gambier, Port Augusta, Whyalla, Port Broughton and Port Pirie, sharing the services CF&KC-SA provides, hearing directly from Carers and connecting with agency staff.

“When I first heard about the regional road trips I was super excited as this was something we had wanted to do for a long time. We work with many Carers from regional South Australia over the phone and video link, I couldn’t wait to tell the Carers I was working with that I would be coming to meet them in their home town. I remember at the time I was working very closely with one Carer and when I told her she cried of excitement that we were finally going to meet in person.

The trips also allowed us to further network with foster care agencies and DCP workers. We were able to share what we do as an organisation to people that didn’t know much about CF&KC-SA and create stronger working relationships. I hope we can plan more regional trips as I believe they have great value in strengthening relationships and further expand the amazing work we do as an organisation.”

Isabella Furnari, Carer Advocate



(clockwise from right) Isabella Furnari (Carer Advocate) with Pauline (Carer from Pt Pirie); Isabella Furnari with Margie (Carer); Sharee Borlace and Isabella Furnari with Lorraine & Ali (DCP Pt Pirie)



(clockwise from right): Sharee Borlace and Isabella Furnari (CF&KC-SA) with Michelle & Pauline (Carers from Pt Pirie) and young person Alicia;

Isabella Furnari and Sharee Borlace (CF&KC-SA) with Christine (Carer) and Georgie & Amanda (Uniting Country SA staff)



(above) Sharee Borlace and Tandanya Allain (CF&KC-SA) with Glenda, Mary & Bronwyn (Whyalla Carers)



(left) Sharee Borlace and Tandanya Allain (CF&KC-SA) with Natalie & Toms (Uniting Country SA Pt Augusta team)

CARER EDUCATION

Throughout 2021/22 we continued our collaborative partnership with the Bradford Institute for Advanced Education (BIAE) supporting our Carer members to participate in further education, subsidised by the South Australian government Skilling SA initiative. We had three graduation ceremonies celebrating the achievement of 34 Carer graduates. Each graduation ceremony was held at Parliament House in the beautiful Balcony room; two hosted by the previous Minister for Child Protection (Rachel Sanderson) and one hosted by the current Minister for Child Protection, The Honorable Katrine Hildyard. The previous Minister for Innovation and Skills, The Honorable David Pisoni, attended two of our graduations, and shared in the success of his portfolios subsidy initiative.

We are thrilled to report that at the end of June 2022 we reached a phenomenal milestone of **96 Carers graduates with a Diploma of Community Services**, since the pilot began in 2019.

We saw students enrol from across SA, from Taperoo to Port Lincoln, Barossa to Keith, Torrensville to Yorke Peninsula, Roxby Downs to Morphettville. All students were thankful the course was offered virtually via Zoom, providing flexibility and attendance for our busy, dedicated Carer members.

Many students shared their keenness to work in the sector after completing their Diploma, with the potential to continue study as an option. Students expressed an interest in gaining employment in:

- Community services
- Counselling
- Local government
- Youth work
- Residential care
- Early Intervention support

When asked why our students enrolled to study the Diploma of Community Services, the feedback was meaningful:

"I want to receive the skills to support Carers, be a voice for my young people and gain the skills to be a support person between the department and Carers"
cohort 6 student

"I want to be a better advocate for myself and my children and one day work for CF&KC-SA" cohort 5 student

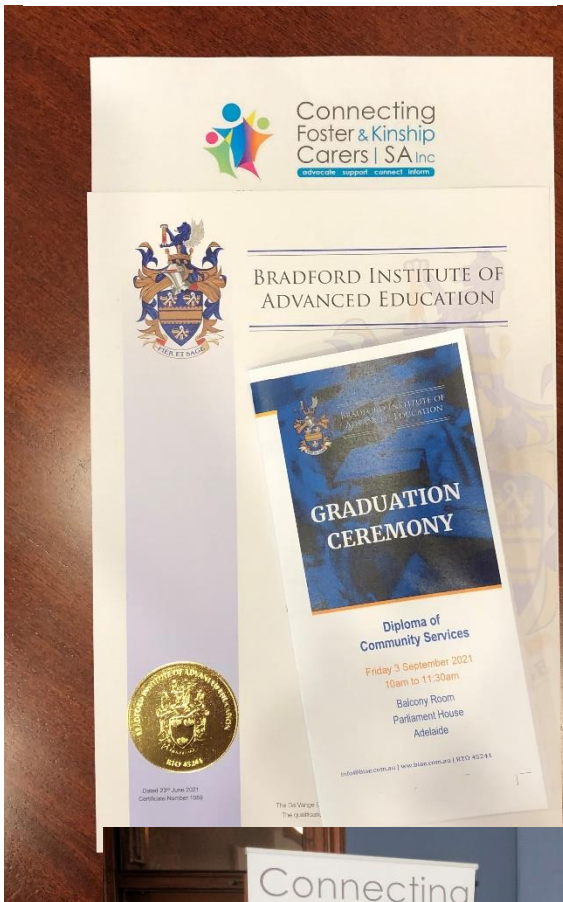
"I do not have any qualifications so this is a great opportunity" cohort 6 student

As the peak body for Carers, we are extremely proud to have facilitated this initiative for our Carer membership – the first of its kind in SA and one which recognises the unique skills and experiences that Carers bring.

CF&KC-SA thanks the Bradford Institute for continuing to facilitate this bespoke opportunity for our Carers, and pursuing subsidies for our students offered through the Skilling SA Initiative offered by The South Australian Department for Innovation and Skills.

We look forward to continuing to deliver this bespoke learning opportunity to our Carer membership well into the future.

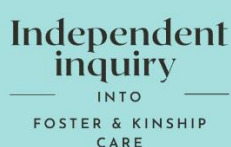
(left & below) Diploma Cohort 4 (July 2021) graduates with Fiona Endacott (CF&KC-SA CEO) and previous Minister for Child Protection Rachel Sanderson



(above) Diploma Cohort 6 (May 2022) graduates, Fiona Endacott (CF&KC-SA CEO), The Honorable Katrine Hildyard Minister for Child Protection, Chris Barrett (BIAE Trainer), David Bradford (BIAE Principal Trainer) & Ange Bradford (BIAE CEO)

INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO FOSTER & KINSHIP CARE

In December 2021 an Independent Inquiry into Foster & Kinship Care was announced, designed to explore the challenges and areas of improvement for family based care through the lens of six distinct Terms of Reference. CF&KC-SA actively supported family based Carers across metropolitan and regional South Australia to participate in the Inquiry, sharing their feedback and suggestions on how the system could be improved. Our organisation supports carers to have their voice heard through the provision of information and consultation sessions, assisting carers to develop their personal submissions and providing group submissions for Carers wishing to contribute their thoughts together.



CF&KC-SA was proud to develop a 54 page submission to the Inquiry, containing evidence based feedback to the Inquiry on areas for improvement and suggestions for improvement based on best practice interstate. The organisational submission was based on information provided to us by our membership via support calls, annual survey findings, and advocacy provided to the Carer community.

The CF&KC-SA submission is available on our website.

Acting as *Inquiry Support Officer* was an incredible and meaningful opportunity, but also one that underscored many of the heart-breaking phenomena Carers faced. Due to the nature of the experiences that prompted Carers' decisions to participate in the Inquiry, many found making a submission to be a re-traumatising and/or emotionally negative and exhausting process. I deeply appreciate their resilience and bravery throughout, and thank every Carer I worked with, not only for their participation, but also for trusting me throughout the process.

The *Inquiry Support Officer* role was created to support Carer participation in the recent parliamentary Inquiry into Foster and Kinship Care. Throughout this role, I helped a large number of Carers participate by helping them to make individual and/or group submissions, co-developing a carer guide about the Inquiry, and creating submission templates for Carers to follow.

I am honored to have been in a position where I helped the carer community to have a voice in the Inquiry—many of whom are also the voice of the children and young people in care. The submissions Carers made confirm that they are committed to loving, and caring for, the children and young people placed with them, and I wholeheartedly thank Carers for doing so in a system far from perfect.

I hope the Inquiry report recommends systemic changes that Carers support, and that those recommendations are actioned by the decision-makers.

Emma Feagan, Project Officer



OUR LEGAL ADVOCACY

We have continued to provide legal information to our Carer membership, through the skills and knowledge of our Legal Consultant Jacquie Nevin. Jacquie has focussed her time on support our Advocacy team to understand legislation, as it pertains to Carers, and ensuring reviewable decision applications are accurate and professional. Jacquie has developed and maintained our legal carer guides, in addition to progressing our relationships with Community Legal Services across South Australia.

We are pleased to report that the relationships with Community Legal Centres have continued to strengthen over the past 12 months, with an additional MOU established with Justice Net SA. We now have a total of **five Community Legal Services MOU's** available for our Carers to access. The Carers that we have referred to CLS's have been treated with dignity and respect when relaying the often difficult journey they have endured with the Department.

In November 2021 we launched our first Continuing Professional Development Day for legal practitioners, an event specifically developed to upskill lawyers working in the Child Protection sector, including those representing Carers at SACAT. We had over 30 registrations for the event, a mix of community legal centre practitioners and private lawyers. We are grateful to the legal practitioners that provided their valuable time to present on the day. Due to the success of our inaugural CPD day, we will provide a second CPD day in November 2022. Money raised from registrations will go toward funding our Legal Consultant role into the future. We at CF&KC-SA plan for this event to be a permanent yearly fixture for legal practitioners working in the area of Child Protection.

My role as Legal Consultant this year has adapted to meet the many challenges faced by our Carers and organisation as a whole. In particular I had the opportunity to provide my perspective as legal consultant, through the Independent Inquiry into Foster and Kinship Care and the Legislative Review. In doing this I had the pleasure of meeting and connecting with many of our Carers. Through consultation, Carers articulated their strong support for Carers rights to be further embedded in the current *Children and Young (People) Safety Act 2017*. I believe we strongly advocated for change through the organisational submissions to the Independent Inquiry and the Legislative review. I will continue to work with Carers and ensure their voice is heard when reviewing the draft legislative changes in early 2023.

I have continued to work closely with our Advocates in their role supporting Carers. I can report that this year the organisation has seen an increase in the amount Carers seeking support with their internal review applications. Both myself and the Advocates have worked closely with Carers in providing support during the internal review process. The volume of internal reviews has continued to highlight the systemic issues our Carers are facing and has provided further data to support our organisational advocacy. In this role I will continue to build relationships with legal practitioners and other organisations to ensure that our Carers are represented and their voices are heard.

Jacquie Nevin – Legal Consultant



We thank the Law Foundation of South Australia Incorporated for their previous grants toward our Legal Consultant role at CF&KC-SA.

**The
LAW FOUNDATION
of SA Incorporated**



The Law Foundation of SA Inc
is proudly supported by
Perks.
Integrated business services

Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers - SA Inc

ABN: 20 480 116 610

Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

Contents
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

	Page
Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income	2
Statement of Financial Position	3
Statement of Changes in Equity	4
Statement of Cash Flows	5
Notes to the Financial Statements	6
Statement by Members of the Committee	11
Auditors Independence Declaration	12
Independent Audit Report	13

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Revenue			
DCP contract grant income		455,369	431,991
Sponsorship income		10,773	30,409
		<u>466,142</u>	<u>462,400</u>
Other income	4	57,028	100,964
		<u>523,170</u>	<u>563,364</u>
Expenses			
Administration expenses	5	(25,920)	(33,858)
Grant expense		(38,334)	-
Computer expenses		(19,470)	(11,155)
Meeting and conference expenses		1,332	(78,333)
Employee benefits expense		(395,847)	(397,230)
Rent expense		(36,414)	(32,216)
Legal expenses		(4,510)	-
Advertising and promotion expense		(1,977)	(5,769)
Affiliation and subscription fees		(2,189)	(4,545)
Events expense		(6,171)	(3,210)
Client support expenses		(3,110)	(2,446)
Accounting and audit expense		(15,706)	(1,827)
Motor vehicle expense		(65)	(476)
Volunteer expense		59	(192)
Foster carer expense		(2,413)	(27)
Travel and accommodation expenses		(6,687)	-
Other expenses		(15,458)	(1,653)
Total expenses		<u>(572,880)</u>	<u>(572,937)</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		(49,710)	(9,573)
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		<u><u>(49,710)</u></u>	<u><u>(9,573)</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and other equivalents	6	165,733	190,547
Trade and other receivables	7	-	430
Prepayments		6,761	2,680
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		172,494	193,657
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant & equipment		-	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		-	-
TOTAL ASSETS		172,494	193,657
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	8	45,530	28,578
Employee benefits	9	45,076	33,481
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		90,606	62,059
TOTAL LIABILITIES		90,606	62,059
NET ASSETS		81,888	131,598
EQUITY			
Retained surpluses		81,888	131,598
TOTAL EQUITY		81,888	131,598

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Changes in Equity
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

	Note	Retained surpluses \$	Total equity \$
2022			
Balance at 1 July 2021		131,598	131,598
Surplus/(Deficit) attributable to members		(49,710)	(49,710)
Balance at 30 June 2022		<u>81,888</u>	<u>81,888</u>
2021			
Balance at 1 July 2020		141,171	141,171
Surplus/(Deficit) attributable to members		(9,573)	(9,573)
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
Balance at 30 June 2021		<u>131,598</u>	<u>131,598</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Operating Activities			
Receipts from grants, subsidies and donations		523,459	628,019
Payments to suppliers and employees		(548,384)	(627,712)
Interest received		111	299
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	10	(24,814)	606
Financing Activities			
Other cash item from financing activities		-	-
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities		-	-
Net Cash Flows		(24,814)	606
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of year		190,547	189,941
Net change in cash for the year		(24,814)	606
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of year	6	165,733	190,547

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

Note 1 General information

Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers - SA Inc is a not-for-profit association incorporated and domiciled in Australia under the Associations Incorporation Act 1985 (SA).

A description of the nature of the incorporated association's operations and its principal activities are included in the members' report, which is not part of the financial statements.

The association is a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission, which is endorsed as a Public Benevolent Institution and holds deductible gift recipient status and is exempt from income tax.

The financial statements were authorised for issue on on 2022

Note 2 Significant accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out either in the respective notes or below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Basis of Preparation

In the members' opinion, the incorporated association is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements.

These are special purpose financial statements that have been prepared for the purposes of complying with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and associated regulations. The members have determined that the accounting policies adopted are appropriate to meet the needs of the Board of Management of Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers - SA Inc.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement requirements specified by the Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ('AASB') and the disclosure requirements of AASB 101 'Presentation of Financial Statements', AASB 107 'Statement of Cash Flows', AASB 108 'Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors', AASB 1048 'Interpretation of Standards' and AASB 1054 'Australian Additional Disclosures', as appropriate for not-for profit oriented entities.

Historical cost convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for, where applicable, the revaluation of financial assets and liabilities at fair value through profit or loss, financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income, investment properties, certain classes of property, plant and equipment and derivative financial instruments.

Critical accounting estimates

The preparation of the financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the incorporated association's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements, are disclosed in note 3.

Revenue recognition

The association recognises revenue as follows:

Grant income

Income arising from the contribution of an asset (including cash) is recognised when the following conditions have been satisfied:

- (a) the association obtains control of the contribution or the right to receive the contribution;
- (b) it is probable that the economic benefits comprising the contribution will flow to the association; and
- (c) the amount of the contribution can be measured reliably at the fair value of the consideration received

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

Note 2 Significant accounting policies (continued)
Revenue recognition

Interest

Interest revenue is recognised as interest accrues using the effective interest method. This is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and allocating the interest income over the relevant period using the effective interest rate, which is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset to the net carrying amount of the financial asset.

Other income

Other income is recognised when it is received or when the right to receive payment is established.

Income tax

As the association is a charitable institution in terms of subsection 50-5 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*, as amended, it is exempt from paying income tax.

Current and non-current classification

Assets and liabilities are presented in the statement of financial position based on current and non-current classification.

An asset is classified as current when: it is either expected to be realised or intended to be sold or consumed in the incorporated association's normal operating cycle; it is held primarily for the purpose of trading; it is expected to be realised within 12 months after the reporting period; or the asset is cash or cash equivalent unless restricted from being exchanged or used to settle a liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period. All other assets are classified as non-current.

A liability is classified as current when: it is either expected to be settled in the incorporated association's normal operating cycle; it is held primarily for the purpose of trading; it is due to be settled within 12 months after the reporting period; or there is no unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period. All other liabilities are classified as non-current.

Goods and Services Tax ('GST') and other similar taxes

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the tax authority. In this case it is recognised as part of the cost of the acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the tax authority is included in other receivables or other payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to the tax authority, are presented as operating cash flows.

Commitments and contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the tax authority.

Provision for Long Service Leave

The Association recognises long service leave liabilities from when employees reach seven years service and is liable for the liability

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

Note 3 Critical accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements. Management continually evaluates its judgements and estimates in relation to assets, liabilities, contingent liabilities, revenue and expenses. Management bases its judgements, estimates and assumptions on historical experience and on other various factors, including expectations of future events, management believes to be reasonable under the circumstances. There are no critical accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions that are likely to affect the current or future financial years.

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Note 4 Other income		
ATO cashflow boost	-	63,426
Grants & donations	41,721	37,136
Interest income	111	299
Other income	15,196	103
Ototal other income	<u>57,028</u>	<u>100,964</u>
	<u>2022 \$</u>	<u>2021 \$</u>

Note 5 Administration expense

Cleaning	1,980	2,800
Cloud admin office expense	-	4,950
Insurance	9,149	6,124
Printing, stationary and postage	976	1,350
Staff amenities	1,297	1,639
Telephone and internet	7,130	9,625
Utilities	5,388	7,370
Ototal other income	<u>25,920</u>	<u>33,858</u>
	<u>2022 \$</u>	<u>2021 \$</u>

Note 6 Cash and cash equivalents

<i>Current assets</i>		
Cash at bank and on hand	<u>165,733</u>	<u>190,547</u>

Accounting policy for cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Note 7 Trade and other receivables		
<i>Current assets</i>		
Trade receivables	-	430

Accounting policy for trade and other receivables

Trade receivables are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any allowance for expected credit losses. Trade receivables are generally due for settlement within 30 days.

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Note 8 Trade and other payables		
<i>Current liabilities</i>		
Trade payables & accruals	11,279	8,682
Superannuation payable	1,390	2,897
Wages payable	1,918	-
BAS payable	30,943	16,999
	<u>45,530</u>	<u>28,578</u>

Accounting policy for trade and other payables

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the incorporated association prior to the end of the financial year and which are unpaid. Due to their short-term nature they are measured at amortised cost and are not discounted. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Note 9 Employee benefits		
<i>Current liabilities</i>		
Annual leave	45,076	33,481

Accounting policy for employee benefits

Short-term employee benefits

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and long service leave expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the reporting date are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

Note 10 Events after the reporting period

No matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2022 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the incorporated association's operations, the results of those operations, or the incorporated association's state of affairs in future financial years.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Note 10 Reconciliation of cash flows from operations		
Surplus/ (deficit) during the year	(49,710)	(9,573)
(Increase) / decrease in trade & other receivables	430	15,000
(Increase) / decrease in prepayments and other assets	(4,081)	-
Increase/ (decrease) in payables in payables and accruals	16,952	(11,273)
Increase/ (decrease) in employee benefits provision	11,595	6,452
Net cash flow generated from / (used in) operating activities	<u>(24,814)</u>	<u>606</u>

Note 11 Contingent liabilities and other commitments

There were no significant contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2022 (30 June 2021: nil)

There were no significant commitments as at 30 June 2022 (30 June 2021: nil)

Note 12 Events after the reporting period

No matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2022 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the incorporated association's operations, the results of those operations, or the incorporated association's state of affairs in future financial years.

Connecting Foster Kinship Carers - SA Inc.

Statement by Members of the Committee

30 June 2022

The members of the committee declare that, in the committee's opinion:

- the incorporated association is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. Accordingly, as described in note 2 to the financial statements, the attached special purpose financial statements have been prepared for the purposes of complying with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and associated regulations;
- the attached financial statements and notes comply with the Accounting Standards as described in note 2 to the financial statements;
- the attached financial statements and notes give a true and fair view of the incorporated association's financial position as at 30 June 2022 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date;
- There are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This statement is made in accordance with subs. 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2013.

On behalf of the members of the committee



Chairperson



Board member

Dated this 16th day of November 2022

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers - SA Inc

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers - SA Inc ("the Association"), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the statement by the members of the committee.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Association has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- (a) Presenting fairly the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2022 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 2 and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* ("the Code") that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 2 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the financial reporting responsibilities under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of the Board and Management for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation of the special purpose financial report that presents fairly and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 2 of the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for Profits Commission Regulations 2013* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. Management's responsibility also includes such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the special purpose financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intend to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

hlb.com.au

HLB Mann Judd Audit (SA) Pty. Ltd. ABN: 32 166 337 097

169 Fullarton Road, Dulwich SA 5065 | PO Box 377, Kent Town SA 5071

T: +61 (0)8 8133 5000 | F: +61 (0)8 8431 3502 | E: reception@hlbsa.com.au

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

HLB Mann Judd Audit (SA) Pty. Ltd. is a member of HLB International, the global advisory and accounting network.

The Board is responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



HLB Mann Judd Audit (SA) Pty Ltd
Chartered Accountants

Adelaide, South Australia
17 November 2022



Corey McGowan
Director

hlb.com.au

HLB Mann Judd Audit (SA) Pty. Ltd. ABN: 32 166 337 097

169 Fullarton Road, Dulwich SA 5065 | PO Box 377, Kent Town SA 5071

T: +61 (0)8 8133 5000 | F: +61 (0)8 8431 3502 | E: reception@hlbsa.com.au

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

HLB Mann Judd Audit (SA) Pty. Ltd. is a member of HLB International, the global advisory and accounting network.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

THANK YOU

- **The Honorable Katrine Hildyard, Minister for Child Protection** for their ongoing support of the peak representative body for 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;
- **The National Foster & Kinship Care Collective**, our Carer peak partner's interstate for their collaboration and support, mentoring and guidance;
- **Bradford Institute of Advance Education** for developing and providing an incredible qualification opportunity for our Carers;
- **Helen Connelly, Commissioner for Children & Young People** for providing funds to engage the voice of Young people under guardianship
- **Hood Sweeney** for providing the necessary IT support to ensure our Carer Advocacy Service is mobile, agile and secure;
- **The Adelaide Fringe Festival and their Community Donor Fund and the Mt Gambier Fringe** for the generous donation of tickets for our Carer families to attend various events across the state during the Fringe;
- **Rachael Zaltron, Backpacks 4 SA kids** for her generous support to our Carer families;
- **SA Power Networks** for donating tickets to the 2021 Christmas Pageant and a corporate box for Carer families to use at an AFL Crows game;
- **Barristers at Selby Street Chambers** for their pro bono legal support;
- **The Honorable David Pisoni, Minister for Innovation and Skills** for their generous Skilling SA subsidy, facilitating our Carer students to undertake a qualification offered by CF&KC-SA & Bradford Institute;
- **Women's Legal Service of SA, Southern Community Justice Service, Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement and JusticeNet SA** for working with our organisation to ensure Carer rights are upheld within the South Australian Civil Administrative Tribunal;

And, THANK YOU 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; 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.