



Media Release

EMBARGOED UNTIL 10AM THURSDAY 25 MAY, 2023

New Carer Council to amplify voice of South Australia's foster and kinship carers

As the peak body representing South Australia's family-based carers, Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers SA (CF&KC-SA) is proud to become the administrator of the Foster and Kinship Carer Council of South Australia to be formed by the Minister for Child Protection.

CF&KC-SA Chief Executive Fiona Endacott says with a 20+year track record in advocating for the rights of carers in the child protection system, the organisation can provide the skills and expertise to set up the Council and support it in its consultation with carers and reporting to the Government.

"We have extensive knowledge of the workings of the child protection system and where gaps may exist based on the diverse experiences of our 1,200 carer members and have been able to uphold carers' rights through establishing a constructive working relationship with the Government," Ms Endacott said.

"A Foster and Kinship Carer Council will amplify the voice of carers and provide the Minister with broad-spectrum advice that reflects the cross-section of foster and kinship carers, of Aboriginal carers and those carers based in regional areas.

"The Council will provide another opportunity for the Government, through the Minister for Child Protection, to hear directly from carers and collaborate with them to change the shape of family-based care in South Australia.

"The Arney inquiry raised key issues about foster and kinship care and these need to be explored more deeply to provide clear advice that can inform policy and decision making and the legislative reform agenda.

"We are committed to ensuring that the conversations and deliberations of the Council yield constructive advice for the Minister to consider."

CF&KC-SA will continue to deliver its range of advocacy services for carers experiencing difficulties with the system.

"Administering the new Carer Council aligns with our mission to ensure the voice of carers is heard and their rights upheld and gives carers another seat at the table to collaborate with policymakers to affect real and lasting change," Ms Endacott said.



About CF&KC-SA

Established in 1999 by carers, Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers SA was formed to provide individual advocacy for carers, carer support, opportunities for carers to connect and information and education about caring for children and young people. Its mission is to ensure carers are recognised, valued and supported to remain focussed 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.

Over the past five years the skills-based executive team and board have increased advocacy efforts year on year, with a 33 per cent rise in inquiries in FY22 and 44% increase in instances of carer advocacy.

In the past five years, inquiries to the organisation's carer advocacy service more than doubled, from 217 to 584.

To recognise and enhance the skills developed when raising children and young people in foster and kinship care, CF&KC-SA also offers a Diploma of Community Services. More than 106 carers have graduated from this program.

CF&KC-SA also conducts regular research of members to gather frank feedback on carers' issues and concerns that informs the organisation's advocacy and program of education and information sessions.

For media interviews and further information please contact [communicate et al:](mailto:vcirillo@communicate.net.au)

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