

2022/23

ANNUAL REPORT



Connecting
Foster & Kinship
Carers | SA Inc

advocate • support • connect • inform

OUR CULTURAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers South Australia (CF&KC-SA) acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout South Australia and recognise the continuing heritage, beliefs and connection First Nation's Australians have with this beautiful land, the waters and communities.

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

Our team is thankful to work, live and raise family on Kurna land.

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



A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

At the commencement of my tenure as Chairperson, on behalf of CF&KC-SA, I facilitated a number of information sessions with the Minister for Child Protection following the release of the Independent Inquiry into Foster Care. Those sessions once again demonstrated to me the incredible passion, dedication and strength of carers. The generosity of carers sharing their stories, both good and heartbreaking, in the hope of overall improving the lives of children brought me to tears. It made clear to me just how important it was for our organisation to continue to amplify the carer voice.

Under the leadership of our CEO, and with considered and targeted support from the Board, CF&KC-SA has entered a new phase of maturity throughout the past year. Not only have we seen external recognition, with nominations for a number of awards, we've seen solidification of the Governments commitment to CF&KC-SA's status as the peak body by the request that we undertake the facilitation of the Carer Council. That task is well underway, and we look forward to all that the Council delivers.

Along with a revamping of our strategic plan, 2024 looks to be an incredibly busy year for all our staff. Along with the Carer Council, the demand for our advocacy service consistently exceeds our capacity to support carers. Ensuring that the funding for this vital service continues, and increases so as to ensure that carers can be retained is an ongoing challenge we face. We await the Government's proposed draft bill with great anticipation, hopeful to see important developments for carers. Our fierce systemic advocacy in that space will continue.

2022-2023 has seen a change in the make-up of the Board. With the greatest of thanks, we have said goodbye to Sara McLean and Phoebe Zander, and I thank them for their significant contribution over the years of their involvement. We have also welcomed new Board members who bring an enviable combination of lived experience, sector experience, governance and professional skills which I am confident will ensure that CF&KC-SA continues to develop and grow in accordance with our strategic plan.

Stepping into the shoes of our much loved and life-time member Megan Hender was a daunting task, but one I have been wonderfully supported by the Board. I am enormously proud of our staff, all of whom are passionate driven to provide excellent support to the carer community.

We look forward to all that 2024 promises. Thank you for your ongoing support, ideas and the commitment you show to the children in your care.



HOLLY VEALE
CHAIRPERSON

A WORD FROM THE CEO

I am proud to present the 2022/23 annual report to our valued membership, and share the robust progress we have made achieving our strategic objective to hear the carer voice. Our achievements over the past 12 months were two fold in nature. We saw consolidation of our hard work from previous years, developing upon our strong reputation as an evidence based, solution focused peak body. We saw an increase in priority partners proactively reaching out to CF&KC-SA for input and guidance on improving the child protection sector. Secondly, we stretched ourselves into new terrain, amplifying the carer voice through the participation (and at often times direct invitation) of several inquiries, both state and federal. A notable selection of opportunities we shared the carer voice include:

- the direct invitation to contribute to the SA Parliament Economic & Finance Committee's issues paper for the upcoming Inquiry into, and report on, children and young people in our of home care;
- the direct invitation to attend the State budget lock in hosted by the Treasurer, with the stand out win being family based foster and kinship carers considered a priority area to allocate funding;
- providing a submission to the review of the *Children & Young People (Safety) Act 2017 (SA)* including 12 recommended amendments to ensure Carer rights are enshrined in law;
- providing submissions to the NDIS General Issues Inquiry, the Inquiry into the *Carer Recognition Act 2010 (Cth)* and the report into the Application of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle supplying input from our carer membership by way of direct advocacy evidence, reference group input and survey findings;
- running our second highly successful Child Protection & the Law CPD training day for over 30 SA solicitors and barristers, educating and informing legal practitioners on the needs of foster and kinship carers when matters present at court;
- the direct invitation to administer the Minister for Child Protections Carer Council, a nation first.

It is crucial to note, our solid achievements in the sector is testament to the dedicated and passionate team I am fortunate to work with. I am thankful to work in partnership with my team and wish to acknowledge their hard work and commitment to supporting carers. Thank you Sharee Borlace, Natalie Baron, Tandanya Allain, Isabella Furnari, Emma Feagan and Jacquie Nevin for your hard work and passion throughout the year. I am privileged to be guided by a dedicated group of volunteer Board members who donate many, many hours to govern the success of our organisation and am thankful for their input and support, ensuring CF&KC-SA is in

the strongest position in can be. I look forward to seeing what the next financial year brings, continuing to advocate for the needs of SA family based carers, and guiding our organisation to progress positive outcomes for our family based carers.



FIONA ENDACOTT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

OUR PEOPLE

BOARD MEMBERS

NAME	POSITION	DATES
Holly Veale	Chairperson	From August 2022
Kelly Mathews	Vice Chairperson + Secretary	From November 2017
Ben Haynes	Treasurer	From August 2022
Bindee Davis	Board Member	From December 2022
Dr. Damien Riggs	Board Member	From March 2023
<i>Megan Hender</i>	<i>Chairperson</i>	<i>May 2017 - November 2022</i>
<i>Terry Harris Plane</i>	<i>Board Member</i>	<i>August 2017 - July 2022</i>
<i>Felicity Graham</i>	<i>Board Youth Consultant</i>	<i>Sept 2021 - Sept 2022</i>
<i>Dr. Sara McLean</i>	<i>Board Member</i>	<i>January 2019 - March 2023</i>
<i>Emma Anderson</i>	<i>Board Member</i>	<i>April 2020 - April 2023</i>
<i>Sarah Ventress</i>	<i>Board Member</i>	<i>April 2020 - May 2023</i>

INTERNSHIPS

NAME	POSITION	DATES
Betsy Green	Intern (Adelaide Univeristy)	November 2022



During this reporting period we were fortunate to have one Adelaide University intern, Betsy Green, donate her time to develop a research report for CF&KC-SA, increasing our broader research collection to four bespoke pieces. Betsy undertook a project titled “SAPOL’s engagement with foster and kinship carers and children in out of home care”, summarising SAPOL’s engagement with foster and kinship carers and children in out of home care; the ultimate goal suggesting improvements to police practices. Research input was collected through a survey and interview with our foster and kinship carer members. The final report recommended SAPOL receive more training in regard to experiences of carers and children in out of home care, trauma and interacting with teenagers and create more efficient processes. Thank you Betsy!

OUR PEOPLE

EMPLOYEES

NAME	POSITION	DATES
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

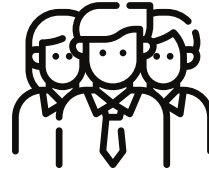


OUR TEAM (L-R): ISABELLA FURNARI, JACQUIE NEVIN, NATALIE BARON, FIONA ENDACOTT,
TANDANYA ALLAIN, EMMA FEAGAN, SHAREE BORLACE

OUR IMPACT



539
enquiries



7 part time
employees



43
member
emails



11 volunteer
Board
Members



35
information
sessions



4
inquiry
submissions



102
Facebook
posts



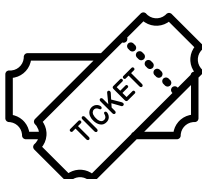
257
advocacy
meetings



18 carer
guides
reviewed +
published



2,895 hours
spent on
advocacy



1,108
free
tickets to
shows



107th carer
graduate

ADVOCATE

During the 2022/23 our Carer Advocacy Service (CAS) moved into its [fifth year](#) of operating as a funded advocacy service. As per previous years, our team ensured carers were:

- Informed about their family-based care matters via information and resource sharing;
- Connected to other service providers, and carers by way of groups and events when suited;
- Supported to provide the best care possible, and overcome challenges; and
- Advocated for in order to address and resolve family-based care related matters.

The CAS team continued to comprise of just 3 part time advocates, who provided carers and their representatives with 1 of 2 types of services: the [inform & connect](#) service and the [support & advocacy](#) service.

The inform & connect service manages enquiries that can be resolved quickly, either during the initial call or shortly after via providing information and/or connecting the enquirer to another service provider or group/event. The second service, support & advocacy, is for enquiries that need further investigation or ongoing advocacy case work to help resolve the matter.

Undertaking advocacy case work was the main task for our Carer Advocate team, their overarching purpose to:

- Provide carers with the opportunity to participate in and challenge decisions that affected their foster/kinship family and the children and young people in their care,
- Ensure carers rights were promoted, protected, and made known to the carer and their priority partners; and
- Clearly and confidently amplify the carer's voice to ensure all priority partners recognised the carer as a crucial and valued part of the child protection system.

Moreover, as the carer community across SA continued to become aware of our organisation, the demand for our CAS increased, both in number and complexity of cases. During the 2022/23 financial year, our individual carer advocacy service reported approximately:

- 539 total enquiries;
- 436 enquirers used our inform and connect service; and
- 105 enquirers used our support and advocacy service.

More specifically, the demand also included approximately:

- 1858 phone calls received/made
- 3870 emails received/sent
- 1547 texts received/sent
- 257 meetings (in person and online)
- 2895 hours spent on providing the carer advocacy service
- 507 additional hours spent giving back to the wider sector and internally via meetings and events to help ensure the carer voice was heard and their rights were reiterated.

"Your Advocates wear capes. They are amazing! I've had two advocates recently help me and another two in the past. You've all stepped up, I was so lost, have been fighting this battle for the past 4yrs. I can't fault your service or anyone in your team." - carer feedback, 2023

ADVOCATE

CF&KC-SA's carer advocates cultivate strong partnership approaches across the child protection sector, to ensure the best possible outcome for carers. It is important we as the peak acknowledge the Department for Child Protection (DCP) and support agency staff across SA who took the time to review and reflect on the individual circumstances of our carer families, to pave the way to more positive and satisfactory outcomes.

Our carer advocates operate with pride and respect for all priority partners, ensuring the principles of the Statement of Commitment for SA foster & kinship carers is the bedrock of their work, encouraging and reminding each priority partner to follow suit.

"The advocate cares about me and my child. Although the advocate is just doing her job, it is not a tick a box job, she really cares about the welfare of the child. The Advocate goes above and beyond and is very supportive in what is a tricky situation." - carer feedback, 2023

"I consider leading the CAS team and working with carers to be a great privilege. The team are very aware of the adversity faced by family-based carers, and are clearly passionate about and committed to working with carers to better their experience. Carers are clearly some of the most courageous, generous, resilient, and openhearted people in our community; without whom, our child protection system may very well collapse and crumble.

Consistent issues arose throughout our individual advocacy work during 2022/23, which informed our systemic advocacy efforts. Data on misinterpreted and inaccurate execution of policy and practice continued to be collated and presented to the DCP each quarter for their consideration.

Examples include:

- The care concern process and mismanagement,
- Information sharing with carers,
- Carer payment reimbursements and remuneration,
- The Statement of Commitment for SA foster & kinship carers; and
- Carer participation in decision making related to the welfare and wellbeing of the foster/kinship child or young person in their care.

Whilst change can be slow and incremental, the carer advocates are highly committed to their work with the carer community. As Senior Advocate, I am proud of our CAS team, as they continued to walk alongside carers to ensure that they are informed, consulted, supported, valued and respected by their care team as per the Statement of Commitment, and their voice was heard and rights were reiterated and upheld as per the Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017. The small and dynamic team we have here, hold great respect and admiration for all family-based carers, and look forward to continuing our work in the year ahead to create meaningful change within this space."

SHAREE BORLACE

SENIOR ADVOCATE



CONNECT

Connecting carers together is at the centre of the work we do at CF&KC-SA. During 2022/23 we offered many opportunities for carers to connect through information sessions, special events and activities.

Each connection event had a dedicated focus of providing information about current issues facing carers and their young people, in addition to offering a range of opportunities to share the achievements and challenges involved in parenting within a family based care setting.

We continued to share free tickets to shows and fun events for carers across the state, offering families the opportunity to enjoy time together and make memories together.

Over the past year we have offered [35 various Carer Information session, forums and events](#), including:

- Family education session: Acknowledgement to Country (Jack Buckskin)
- Commissioner for Children & Young People presentation (Helen Connolly)
- Responding to Challenging Behaviours (Colby Pearce)
- Building Coping Skills, Living with Young People and Cyber Safety sessions (Families Growing Together)
- SAPOL engagement with Carers and young people (University Research intern project)
- Grandparent Foster & Kinship Carer Adviser Information Session (Services Australia)
- Carer Inquiry: Minister for Child Protection consultation with Carers (The Hon. Katrine Hildyard)
- Inquiry Report & Recommendations update (CF&KC-SA CEO, Fiona Endacott)
- Minister Consultation with Carers re Inquiry Report & Recommendations (The Hon. Katrine Hildyard)
- Boundary changes and flexible respite options (DCP)
- Intergenerational trauma (Wonky Lines Counselling)
- Legislation Review Consultation with Carers
- Grief & Transition Support Group
- CF&KC-SA Open Board Meeting and AGM
- Graduation ceremony – Diploma of Community Services
- regional roadshow with the Guardian for Children & Young People, Shona Reid and her team

Thanks to the generous donation of complimentary tickets, we were able to give away 1,108 free tickets (to the value of \$31,980) to CF&KC-SA Foster & Kinship Carer Member families to attend numerous shows around SA, including:

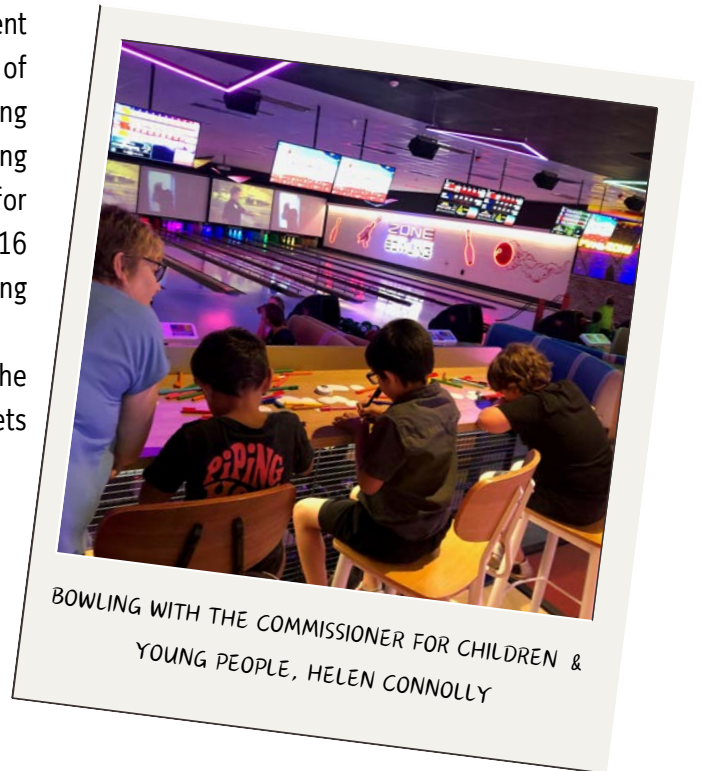
- Light Creatures at Adelaide Zoo (included a meal voucher for each guest)
- Light Cycles (included a meal & drinks voucher for each guest)
- Adelaide Festival shows including The Listies ROFL, On Circa, You are the Action Star, Removed performance
- Adelaide Fringe shows including Electric Skies and the Mt Gambier Family Day
- Royal Adelaide Show

CONNECT

A new opportunity for CF&KC-SA included a Family Fun event at Zone Bowling, Woodville, thanks to the generosity of Helen Connolly, the Commissioner for Children and Young People. The Commissioner was keen to hear from young people in family based care, and provide an opportunity for carers to relax and connect. The event was attended by 16 CF&KC-SA Member families, including 41 children and young people.

Our sincere gratitude to the wonderful generosity of the following organisations who provided complimentary tickets to events throughout the 2022/23 financial year:

- SA Power Networks
- Adelaide Festival Centre
- Adelaide Fringe
- Illuminate Adelaide
- Backpacks for SA Kids
- Royal Adelaide Show
- Circus Quirkus



“Wow what a fantastic experience. I would love to pass on my sincere gratitude to the sponsors and CF&KC-SA for providing the opportunity to attend the show. The exposure to such an inspiring, talented group and their brave performance showed the children the world of difference. The open conversation as a family after regarding diversity and future opportunities will be forever engraved in my heart. Thank you so much.”

-carer feedback, Adelaide Festival On Circa show



NATALIE BARON

ADMINISTRATION & EVENTS COORDINATOR

“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 and look forward to providing more opportunities in 2023-24.”



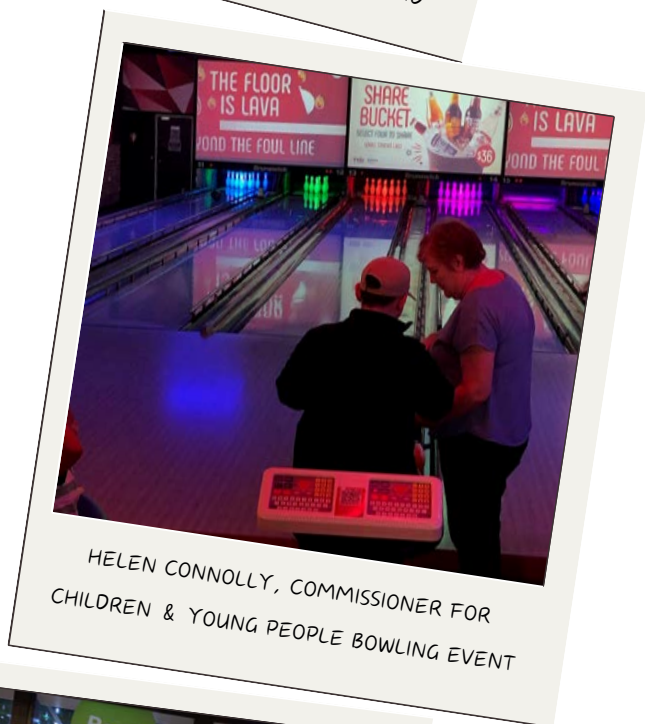
SHAREE & ISABELLA VISITING PT LINCOLN TO MEET OUR CARERS



SHAREE VISITING PT LINCOLN WITH THE GUARDIAN FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE, SHONA REID



FIONA, HOLLY AND OUR CARER MEMBERS WITH THE HON. KATRINE HILDYARD, MINISTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION



HELEN CONNOLLY, COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE BOWLING EVENT



FIONA WITH THE GENEROUS TEAM BEHIND ILLUMINATE FESTIVAL

SUPPORT

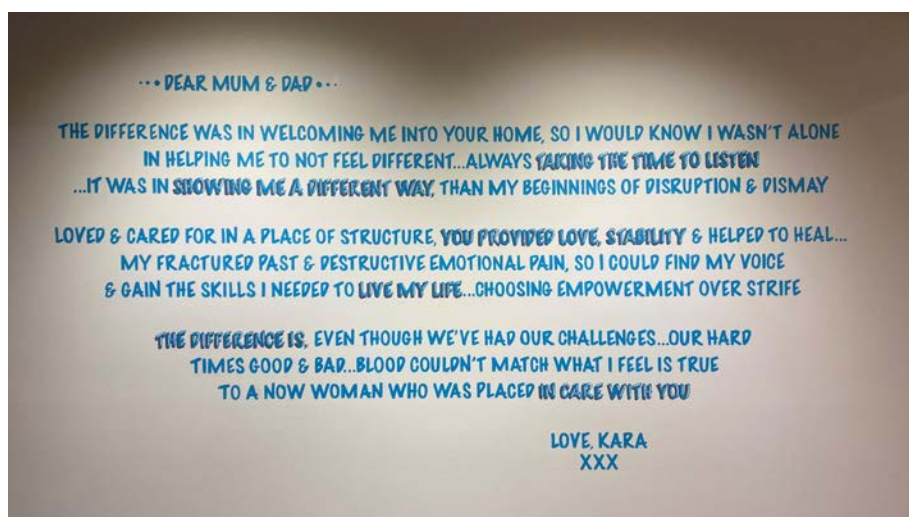
CF&KC-SA is dedicated to supporting carers to provide stable family-based care placements and the best possible outcomes for children and young people in their care. We understand the challenges carers face when receiving support from the child protection system, and are therefore committed to addressing gaps carers experience, providing a variety of carer support opportunities.

During the 2022/23 financial year, our CAS team for individual advocacy received 539 enquiries, 105 of which were triaged to our support & advocacy service. When a person's needs did not fit within the scope of our service, we made every effort to refer them to a more suitable provider to ensure they were on the path to finding the support they needed. Our team is committed to taking the time to listen to each person's story, provide applicable information and guidance, and assess whether a support & advocacy case should be opened. This financial year, our carer advocates regularly received anecdotal feedback from the carers we supported, many of whom shared that they felt relieved to have had someone simply listen to their story and validate their experience.

Grief & Transition Support Group

CF&KC-SA continued to provide our bespoke support project to assist carers living with disenfranchised grief and loss; by way of our Grief and Transition Group. This group provides support to carers experiencing grief and loss associated with their caring roles, such as the relinquishment or removal of a foster/kinship child or young person who was once their care. We have run the group since 2019, and it is open to all family-based carers. Foster carer, Lorraine Joy, generously volunteers her time to facilitate the group with us in our office, and also encourages peer support outside of the session. This financial year, we saw [demand for 8 sessions](#), as well as a grief and transition group to be offered in regional areas. Sadly, regional support groups cannot occur due to lack of funding however we will continue to explore opportunities for funding to make in person sessions possible in the regions.

The grief and transition group is an important space for those with a family-based caring experience who have experienced what we recognise to be disenfranchised grief, an often overlooked experience of grief. We welcome all family-based carers to join us in future sessions.



POEM DEVELOPED BY KARA, PAINTED ON OUR WALL

IN OUR PROSPECT OFFICE

SUPPORT



The grief and transition group is an important space for those with a family-based caring experience who have experienced what we recognise to be disenfranchised grief, an often overlooked experience of grief. We welcome all family-based carers to join us in future sessions.

“The professional growth and development I have gained because of this role has been incredibly transformative. I am grateful for CF&KC-SA, as well as all of the foster and kinship carers, for trusting me to provide them with advocacy and support over the years. The experience of working in such a supportive and caring environment, alongside a team full of passion and fire for social justice, was incredibly sustaining. The contribution by each individual in the organisation play an integral part in the services provided to foster and kinship carers and is done with drive, compassion and optimism.

The work does not let up and neither does the team. It is important to me to have had the opportunity to sit in a space with Carers when they are in the midst of some of the most challenging experiences in their lives. I am in awe of our foster and kinship carers who provide such incredible loving and caring homes, all whilst navigating an exceptionally challenging child protection system.

I am glad to have seen the organisation grow from strength to strength and from advocating for and supporting hundreds of carers, to being regarded as a significant and valuable contributor to the South Australian (and other jurisdiction's) child protection sectors. The organisation's rising reputation as a peak body has played a significant part in the advancements in positive systemic change. I am set to venture onto a different journey in the New Year, so my role as a carer advocate is coming to an end. Nevertheless, I look forward to hearing about the future successes of CF&KC-SA raising the profile of carers whilst improving the foster and kinship care space.”

TANDANYA ALLAIN

CARER ADVOCATE

a farewell note



INFORM

Our team is committed to keeping our family-based carer membership informed about the latest child protection and foster and kinship care matters. This year, carers were informed via a multitude of platforms including our inform & connect service, membership emails, Facebook posts, in-office and online workshops and consultations, and internal and external resources, including:

- 43 membership emails (including 8 specifically about the Parliamentary Inquiry into Foster and Kinship Care SA)
- 102 Facebook posts
- 35 workshops/consultations
- 11 carer resource updates
- 1 Education Champion program link-up meeting

Our carer resources

Since 2017, CF&KC-SA has developed and published informational resources for SA's family-based carers, more specifically, our carer guides. With the passage of time, our carer guides have increased in number, addressing both serious and common knowledge gaps amongst the carer community.

The aim of offering our carer guides is to help inform carers on specific matters that relate to navigating the child protection system as a carer. Carers and priority partners can rest assured the content is quality controlled, with all guides drafted by CF&KC-SA and confirmed by the relevant jurisdiction responsible (i.e. Youth Court, DCP, SACAT).

We are pleased to confirm [18 Carer Guides](#) were reviewed and published on our website for carers to access any time:

- The Role of a Support Person
- Contact Arrangements Review Panel
- Reunification Court
- How do I Complain about a DCP Action or Decision?
- The Role of the Ombudsman
- Freedom of Information
- The NDIS process application
- The Youth Court
- Wills & Estate Planning
- How to Draft a SACAT Application
- External review at SACAT
- Reviewable Decisions
- Understanding the Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017
- What is a Care Team Meeting
- The Carer Non Approval Process
- Long Term Guardianship Specified Person Application process
- What is a Complex Case Review Meeting?
- The Care Concerns Process

INFORM

Our carer workshops and consultations

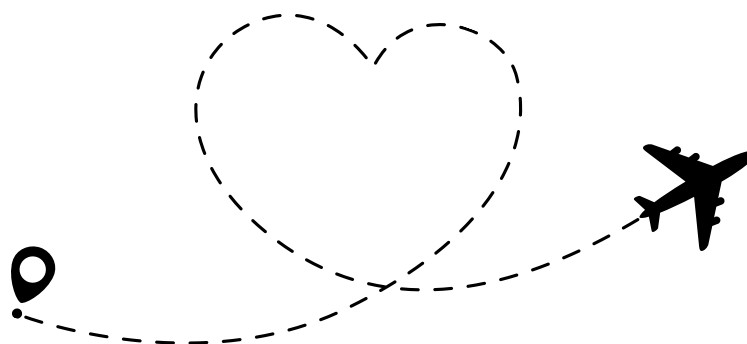
As part of our commitment to informing carers, our annual carer survey always asks participants to indicate which topics they are interested in learning more about in the coming year. Based on this information, CF&KC-SA offered an array of workshops and information sessions for carers over the 2022/23 financial year.

The topics included:

- Jack Buckskin's 'Acknowledgement to Country' in the Kuarna language workshop (x2)
- Responding to challenging behaviours
- Cyber safety for families
- Building coping skills
- The Grandparents Foster and Kinship Carer Advisor Line information session
- Report of the Inquiry into Foster and Kinship Care (2022) consultation with the Minister for Child Protection (x3)
- Report of the Inquiry into Foster and Kinship Care (2022) consultation with the CEO for CF&KC-SA
- The Diploma of Community Services information session (x2)
- Living with young people
- DCP boundary changes and flexible respite options information session
- Understanding intergenerational trauma
- 'Being a Dad' information session for male carers

During 2022/23 we began to offer information sessions to DCP and SA support agency staff to share about who we are and what we do, raising the profile of our work as the peak body, and how we can support carers right from the beginning of their carer journey. Our carer advocates organised and presented to a number of teams, received excellent feedback, as well as multiple requests to run more sessions in the future, in which we hope to do so.

"It was fantastic to get out of the office and speak to those teams who are less familiar with what we do on an everyday basis. Participants of these sessions engaged with interesting questions, which also led to great conversations" - Isabella Furnari, Carer Advocate.



INFORM

The Education Champion program

In early 2023, CF&KC-SA was invited to become part of the Education Champions Program, a group of government, non-government, and not-for-profit organisation representatives known as Education Champions (ECs). Once a school-term, ECs attend link-up meetings to work closely with the Department for Education's Children in Care Service and learn about how participating organisations can support children and young people in care to succeed in their education journeys.

Link ups provide opportunities to meet and build relationships with key Department for Education staff and gain knowledge that can help us, as the peak body, to inform the Education Department about family-based care matters and concerns. To ensure the carer voice is heard in the education space, Carer Advocate, Isabella Furnari was nominated as our Education Champion. To date, Isabella has shared the knowledge gained from these link ups to the advocacy team and our knowledge as an advocacy body to the Education Champions program. We look forward to continuing this journey to advocate for a system that improves education outcomes for our foster and kinship children and young people.



SHONA REID, GUARDIAN FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE PRESENTING TO OUR CARERS ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE GUARDIAN



ISABELLA FURNARI CARER ADVOCATE

"Informing and providing carers with the opportunities to engage in workshops, information sessions, and consultations, is an incredibly important aspect of the work we do as a peak body.

To ensure that carers are aware of and understand their rights and entitlements whilst providing family-based care, we hope to continue and expand upon the information we disseminate by way of more events and resources in the future."

SYSTEMS ADVOCACY

The 2022/23 financial year saw a strengthening in our lobbying across state and federal platforms. As the peak body for family-based carers in SA, systemic advocacy is a major function of our organisation.

We do this by:

- Participating in committees and reference groups.
- Making formal submissions and responses to parliamentary and departmental public consultation requests.
- Taking part in formal sessions about updating and developing relevant policies and procedures across the child protection sector, state and federally.
- Maintaining longstanding relationships with government and non-government chief executives and leaders, as well as commissioners, ministers, parliamentarians, and journalists.
- Publishing media releases and sharing trends and campaigns for our membership.
- Being involved in the Department for Child Protection (DCP) policy and procedural development and reviewal stages.
- Facilitating carer-focused research via surveys, working with university academics and research interns, and running reference groups with carers.
- Reducing the stigma and stereotypes associated with providing foster and kinship care.

Over the 2022/23 period, we helped to identify and keep track of the ongoing and emerging systemic issues in the foster and kinship care space by:

1. Ensuring our carer advocates reported on widespread issues that individual carers experienced.
2. Conducting CF&KC-SA's annual carer survey.
3. Engaging in research projects at university level.
4. Participating in formal meetings with the DCP, parliamentarians, Chief Executives, peak bodies, and agencies.

The [ongoing and emerging systemic issues](#) during this financial year:

- Inadequate carer payments.
- The care concern process.
- Access to and flexible respite care.
- Decreased carer retention and recruitment.
- The mental health and wellbeing of carers.
- Reduced superannuation for carers.
- The NDIS navigation process.
- Care team consultation and decision-making processes.
- Sharing and transparency of documentation and information.
- Fractured partnerships between carers and priority partners.
- Lack of awareness and application of the Statement of Commitment.

SYSTEMS ADVOCACY

In light of these systemic issues, CF&KC-SA engaged in an array of advocacy efforts. See below for details on our work and achievements for each issue:

Inadequate carer payments:

- CF&KC-SA contacted 5 Parliamentarians and 3 DCP Executives, requesting a payment increase to at least match the rising cost of living. Rates were subsequently raised by 4.8% and \$50 per fortnight, nearly aligning with the then 7.9% inflation.
- CF&KC-SA arranged for the Minister for Child Protection to attend “in office” consultations to discuss Arney’s report on the Inquiry. The Minister showed support for Arney’s Recommendations 24 to 29, which addressed costs and remuneration.
- CF&KC-SA contributed to the Economic and Finance Committee’s Issues Paper to inform an upcoming Inquiry into Children and Young People in Home Care, stressing the need to assess the true cost of providing care to carers in SA.
- CF&KC-SA met with Kate Fox, CEO of the South Australian Financial Counsellors Association, highlighting the financial challenges faced by carers. We hope to collaborate on a joint piece to raise awareness on this issue.

The care concern process:

- CF&KC-SA engaged in several meetings with priority partners to discuss care concern reform.
- CF&KC-SA participated in the most recent care concerns reform project.
- CF&KC-SA made a submission to the *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017* legislation review in November 2022, which proposed amendments that could outline the powers and responsibilities of the Care Concerns Investigation Unit, prescribe the care concern investigation process, and make care concern decisions reviewable.

Access to and flexible respite care:

CF&KC-SA engaged in an extensive information session where carers shared their experiences to guide SA’s respite improvement efforts. This included:

- Exploring approaches used in other states.
- More extensive consultations with carers.
- Taskforce meetings on carer recruitment and retention.
- Speaking with NGOs, peak bodies, and oversight organisations.
- Engaging children and young people in family-based care.
- This commitment should also align with Recommendation 21 in Arney’s report.

The DCP conducted a survey to gather data on what services would provide a “respite like effect.” CF&KC-SA participated in the survey outlining the input provided by carers and our advocacy team.

SYSTEMS ADVOCACY

Decreased retention and recruitment of carers:

- The issue of declining carer retention and recruitment sits at the core of every systemic advocacy piece we do (we understand that the magnitude of systemic issues are undoubtedly contributing factors).
- The DCP and agencies keep CF&KC-SA informed on carer retention and recruitment matters by way of taskforce meetings.

The mental health and wellbeing of carers:

- In the 2022 annual carer survey, we included additional questions to find out more about the topic. Results showed that the need and demand for mental health support for carers was significant; we have since issued a project to address the matter.
- PhD candidate, Matthew Richardson, offered to volunteer his time and research skills to investigate ways to implement expert mental health support for carers in SA, liaising with our sister peak body, Foster Carers Association of Victoria.

Reduced superannuation for carers:

- CF&KC-SA raised the issue with SA Minister for Child Protection, Katrine Hildyard MP.
- CF&KC-SA wrote to Assistant Treasurer, Stephen Jones MP, on behalf of the National Foster & Kinship Care Collective to draw his Department's attention to the issue.
- CF&KC-SA engaged senior council, who conducted pertinent research on superannuation to family-based carers within the framework of relevant legislation.

The NDIS navigation process:

- In the 2022 annual carer survey, we included additional questions to find out more about the topic.
- CF&KC-SA developed and made a submission to the Parliament of Australia's Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS' General Issues Inquiry and included data collected from the survey (our submission did not outline specific recommendations to change the system, but did, however, shed a light on family-based carers' experiences navigating the scheme).

Care team consultation and decision-making processes, sharing and transparency of documentation and information, fractured partnerships between carers and priority partners, and lack of awareness and application of the Statement of Commitment:

- Each issue here is addressed by way of the inform & connect and support & advocacy services the carer advocates provide daily.
- These issues are addressed in phone calls, emails, and meetings with the carer, their care team, and other associates, including the South Australia Civil and Administrative Tribunal.
- These issues are often reported on in our Practice Issues Report provided to the DCP at the end of each quarter.

More specifically, we also took part in reviewing the Family based carers: Missing or absent from placement fact sheet (2022) to ensure the information was accurate, considerate, and written in an encouraging and supportive manner for carers.

SYSTEMS ADVOCACY

The Inquiry into Foster & Kinship Care (SA): update

The previous financial year saw the Parliamentary Inquiry into Foster and Kinship Care (SA) come to fruition, and child protection expert, Dr Fiona Arney, appointed as the independent person to lead the Inquiry.

The Inquiry received 206 submissions, 149 from carers, 17 organisations, 3 research groups, and 2 practitioners, including the phenomenal 54 page submission from CF&KC-SA.

At the end of November 2022, Dr Arney handed her Report of the Inquiry into Foster & Kinship Care to the Minister for Child Protection. The Minister met with CF&KC-SA immediately after receipt, to formally present the report to the peak body. The report chapters were divided by the terms of reference, with 29 recommendations made by Dr Arney.

During January and March 2023, CF&KC-SA held 6 consultation sessions to discuss the Arney report and recommendations with carers. The Minister for Child Protection, The Hon. Katrine Hildyard MP, attended sessions, showed her support for each recommendation and provided carers opportunities to share their thoughts. CF&KC-SA summarised for the membership, Minister Hildyard's recommendation strategy for potential implementation, dividing them into 5 categories:

- 1.Recommendations the State Government are committed to action as a priority.
- 2.Recommendations that require legislative change (and are committed to action).
- 3.Recommendations that fall under the purview of the Federal Government for further discussion.
- 4.Recommendations that are already in train.
- 5.Recommendations that require further exploration.

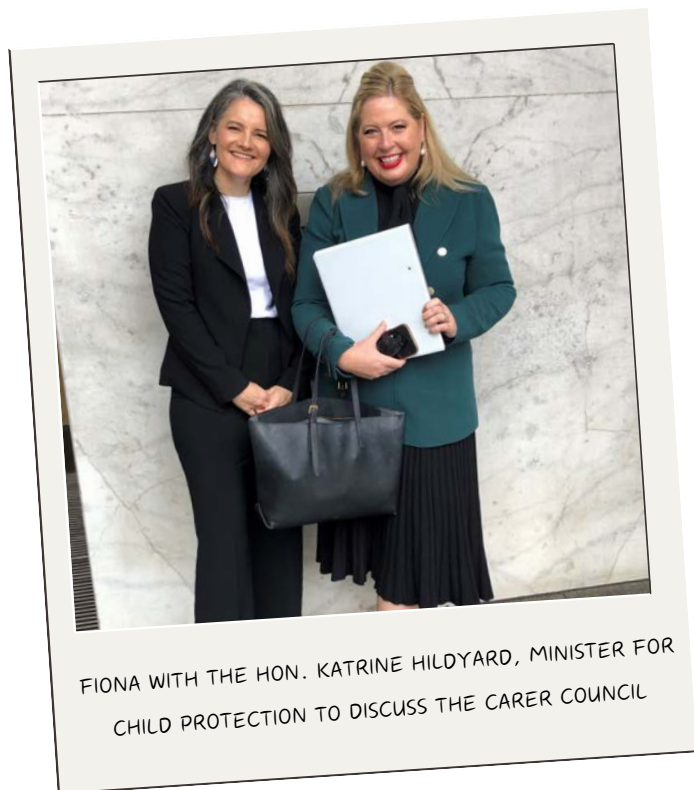
The Inquiry report is a valuable piece of work and major resource for our individual and systemic advocacy efforts. We look forward to advocating for and seeing its recommendations come to life in the future.

The Carer Council

In the fourth chapter of Dr Arney's report on the Inquiry (Chapter 4. Consultation), that examined consultation processes between priority partners. Recommendations were borne out of this chapter, one of which was Recommendation 7. That being (in short) to create an advisory council to contribute to the design of policy, practice, and legislative reform in relation to foster and kinship care and provide direct advice to the SA Government via the Minister for Child Protection. The Minister for Child Protection supported this recommendation, and issued its implementation via CF&KC-SA's administration shortly after. The establishment of the Carer Council is now underway but details, as well as other implementations of recommendations 1 to 29, will be recounted in the next annual report.



SYSTEMS ADVOCACY



FIONA WITH THE HON. KATRINE HILDYARD, MINISTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION TO DISCUSS THE CARER COUNCIL



FIONA, HOLLY AND OUR CARER MEMBERS WITH THE HON. KATRINE HILDYARD, MINISTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION

EMMA FEAGAN PROJECT OFFICER



"As the Project Officer during the 2022/23 financial year, I undertook a number of different projects. I arranged a session for young people in care to inform the Commissioner for Children and Young People's submission to the *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017* review, revamped the annual carer survey to ensure we collect credible data about the carer population, developed a business strategy for diversifying CF&KC-SA's income streams, and wrote/edited letters and submissions to government inquiries and issues papers. Projects that stand out also include my successful grant application of \$49,193 from the Department for Human Services, and putting together CF&KC-SA's first 5 year impact report (2019 to 2023) to be completed in the next financial year. The foster and kinship care space is an incredibly challenging, interesting, and important part of our child protection system. I am excited to continue my role to help execute CF&KC-SA's strategic plans for voicing family-based carers' experiences. I recognise that carers play a crucial and invaluable role in our child protection system, so, for me, it is a privilege to be part of the journey that strives to pave the way to better outcomes for our foster and kinship families. I have learnt an incredible amount over the years, and feel lucky to be part of a truly supportive, compassionate, understanding, and committed team."

NATIONAL ADVOCACY

THE NATIONAL FOSTER & KINSHIP CARE COLLECTIVE

The National Foster & Kinship Care Collective (NFKCC) is a voluntary non-government and not-for-profit cooperative that comprises of the state and territory peak bodies for family-based carers from the Australian Capital Territory, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, and Western Australia. NFKCC's mission is to advocate for the rights, needs, voice, and wellbeing of family-based carers to ensure Australia recruits, supports, and retains this carer demographic as they help children and young people in care to thrive and reach their full potential.

The NFKCC meet online each month to discuss the latest issues in each jurisdiction, as well as any collective advocacy matters requiring attention. Additionally the Collective share insight and planning for the annual National Foster & Kinship Care Conference, which is rotated around each jurisdiction each year. In 2022, we were fortunate to connect in Darwin, Northern Territory, where our NT peak partner had the double pleasure of hosting the National and International Foster & Kinship Care Conference.

This financial year the NFKCC focused on federal issues requiring systemic change, including areas such as:

- 1.increasing cost of living and the impact on family based carer families
- 2.superannuation entitlements for family based carers
- 3.ensuring the Safe & Supported National Framework for protecting Australia's children: 2021-2031 had a national family based carer lens
- 4.amending the Medicare Dental Benefits Scheme to include all young people in care without means testing carer income

The NFKCC lobbied multiple federal parliamentarians addressing the issues listed above in addition to supplying submissions to relevant inquiries.

Parliamentarians contacted:

- The Hon. Stephen Jones MP, Assistant Treasurer & Minister for Financial Services
- The Hon. Amanda Rishworth MP, Minister for Human Services
- The Hon. Linda Burney, Minister for Indigenous Australians

Inquiry submissions:

- Review of the *National Dental Benefits Act 2008* (Cth)
- Inquiry into and report on the provisions and operation of the *Carer Recognition Act 2010* (Cth) in relation to unpaid carers



**National
Foster and Kinship
Care Collective**



THE NFKCC TEAM (L-R): BRYAN SMITH (QLD), FIONA ENDACOTT (SA), CHERYL SCHMIDT (NT), SAMANTHA HAUGE (VIC), MAGGIE SMITH (TAS), (FAY ALFORD (WA) ABSENT)

OUR DIPLOMA PROJECT

During 2022/23 we reached a phenomenal milestone, with our 107th carer graduate receiving their parchment at Parliament House. It is astounding to take pause and reflect on the success the Diploma Project has had since its humble pilot beginnings in 2019. We are grateful to The Bradford Institute of Advanced Education for continuing to provide the Diploma of Community Services to our carer membership and to Minister Boyer's Skilling SA program for the education subsidy to ensure each carer can access a fee free qualification.

Carers who have graduated with a Bradford qualification share they now understand the child protection system better, and have improved confidence in their lives, not to mention the positive impact this experience has had on their children and young people, seeing their parent study and graduate, modelling to their children that further study is life changing.

This course continues to change the lives of our carer members and as a result change the shape of our South Australian community. We hope to continue delivering this bespoke learning opportunity to our Carer membership well into the future with the generosity of the South Australian government.



ABOVE: COHORT 7 GRADUATES, NOVEMBER 2022 AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE

LEFT: DAVID BRADFORD, PRINCIPAL TRAINER BRADFORD INSTITUTE; THE HON. KATRINE HILDYARD, MINISTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION; ANGELA BRADFORD, CEO BRADFORD INSTITUTE; FIONA ENDACOTT, CATHY TAYLOR, DCP CHIEF EXECUTIVE

OUR LEGAL ADVOCACY

Our Legal Consultant Jacquie Nevin continued to support our team and carer membership over the 2022/23 financial year. Jacquie provided legal information by way of resources and information sessions to both carers and legal professionals, and supported our Carer Advocates to undertake the internal and external review process for carers. Demand for support with reviewable decisions increased during the financial year and Jacquie continued to work closely with the five Community Legal Centres CF&KC-SA has Memorandum of Understanding agreements with to ensure carers could access affordable legal assistance with their matters. Our MOU partnerships are with the Community Legal Services listed below:

1. Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement
2. Community Justice Services SA
3. Women's Legal Service SA
4. Northern Community Legal Service
5. JusticeNet SA

We were thrilled to carry our Child Protection and the Law CPD day for legal practitioners into its second year, holding the event in November 2022 at the State Library of South Australia. The goal of the CPD day is to upskill lawyers working in the child protection sector and provide crucial networking opportunities for CF&KC-SA's team and the legal community. We were delighted to register over 30 legal practitioners.

This network has ensured our Carers, who may not meet the community legal centres' means testing criteria, have access to a list of private legal practitioners. Presentations covered understanding the role of Crown, the interplay between the Children & Young People (Safety) Act 2017 and the Family Law Act 1975, and appearing in the Youth Court regarding care and protection matters.

Our outstanding speaker list included:

- The Honorable Judge Penny Eldridge, SA Youth Court
- Steven Strelan, Deputy Ombudsman
- Estelle Frawley, Barrister at Carrington Chambers
- Cinzia Aglieco, Solicitor at Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement
- Jonathon Lambert, Executive Solicitor at the Crown Solicitor's Office



2022 LEGAL CPD DAY (L-R): FIONA ENDACOTT; JUDGE PENNY ELDRIDGE, SA YOUTH COURT; JACQUIE NEVIN; LORENA DE PALMA, SA YOUTH COURT



JACQUIE NEVIN LEGAL CONSULTANT

"It was a privilege to meet and work with carers as a legal consultant during March 2021 and September 2023. Most carers do not expect to navigate legal processes during their journey, but with the support of CF&KC-SA, I believe carers will continue to be respected and heard."

A WORD FROM THE TREASURER

The 2023 Financial Year was an exciting year for CF&KC – SA that saw genuine expansion of the financial position of the organisation.

The fantastic work by Fiona and her team led to a recognition from the Government of the importance of foster carer advocacy, which has been reflected in our increase in funding of approximately 47%.

In deciding to take on the Carer Council, we saw a boost in both funding and expenditure, which reflects the higher level of responsibility that CF&KC-SA have taken on.

It is important to note that due to the makeup of the new Carer Council Funding, there has been a large amount of government funding recorded in the 2023 financial year, which has not yet been reflected in expenses and has flowed into the 2024 financial year.

While we are all excited about the budget surplus, which has been seen very rarely by CF&KC – SA, I would expect this to transition into a deficit in the 2024 financial year as the timing of payments washes out across reporting periods.

Overall, CF&KC is in a sustainable financial position due to the careful financial management of Fiona.



BEN HAYNES
TREASURER

Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers - SA Inc

ABN: 20 480 116 610

Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Connecting Foster and Kinship Carers - SA Inc.

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For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

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Connecting Foster Kinship Carers - SA Inc.

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Revenue			
DCP contract grant income		750,227	455,369
Sponsorship income		-	10,773
		<u>750,227</u>	<u>466,142</u>
Other income	4	<u>20,200</u>	<u>57,028</u>
		<u>770,427</u>	<u>523,170</u>
Expenses			
Administration expenses	5	(27,911)	(25,920)
Grant expense		(1,269)	(38,334)
Computer expenses		(11,429)	(19,470)
Meeting and conference expenses		-	1,332
Employee benefits expense		(461,034)	(395,847)
Rent expense		(46,883)	(36,414)
Legal expenses		(30,525)	(4,510)
Advertising and promotion expense		(4,483)	(1,977)
Affiliation and subscription fees		(5,908)	(2,189)
Events expense		(18,643)	(6,171)
Client support expenses		(2,815)	(3,110)
Accounting and audit expense		(12,267)	(15,706)
Motor vehicle expense		(1,735)	(65)
Volunteer expense		(145)	59
Foster carer expense		(14,910)	(2,413)
Travel and accommodation expenses		(4,407)	(6,687)
Other expenses		(2,085)	(15,458)
Total expenses		<u>(646,449)</u>	<u>(572,880)</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		123,978	(49,710)
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		<u><u>123,978</u></u>	<u><u>(49,710)</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Connecting Foster Kinship Carers - SA Inc.

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and other equivalents	6	355,576	165,733
Trade and other receivables	7	70	-
Prepayments		<u>2,680</u>	<u>6,761</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>358,326</u>	<u>172,494</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant & equipment		-	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>358,326</u>	<u>172,494</u>
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	8	55,166	45,530
Grants in advance	9	18,671	-
Employee benefits	10	58,438	45,076
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>132,275</u>	<u>90,606</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee benefits	10	20,185	-
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>20,185</u>	<u>90,606</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>152,460</u>	<u>90,606</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>205,866</u>	<u>81,888</u>
EQUITY			
Retained surpluses		<u>205,866</u>	<u>81,888</u>
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>205,866</u>	<u>81,888</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Connecting Foster Kinship Carers - SA Inc.

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	Note	Retained surpluses \$	Total equity \$
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
2023			
Balance at 1 July 2022		81,888	81,888
Surplus/(Deficit) attributable to members		123,978	123,978
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
Balance at 30 June 2023		<u>205,866</u>	<u>205,866</u>
2022			
Balance at 1 July 2021		131,598	131,598
Surplus/(Deficit) attributable to members		(49,710)	(49,710)
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
Balance at 30 June 2022		<u>81,888</u>	<u>81,888</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Connecting Foster Kinship Carers - SA Inc

Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Operating Activities			
Receipts from grants, subsidies and donations		788,635	523,459
Payments to suppliers and employees		(599,185)	(548,384)
Interest received		393	111
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	11	<u>189,843</u>	<u>(24,814)</u>
Financing Activities			
Other cash item from financing activities		-	-
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Cash Flows		<u>189,843</u>	<u>(24,814)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of year		165,733	190,547
Net change in cash for the year		189,843	(24,814)
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of year	6	<u>355,576</u>	<u>165,733</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Connecting Foster Kinship Carers - SA Inc

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

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 7th November 2023

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 2023

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 five years service on a basis calculated on the employee reaching seven years.

Connecting Foster Kinship Carers - SA Inc.

**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

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.

	2023	2022
	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>
Note 4 Other income		
Grants & donations	8,926	41,721
Interest income	393	111
Other income	<u>10,881</u>	<u>15,196</u>
Total other income	<u>20,200</u>	<u>57,028</u>
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>

Note 5 Administration expense

Cleaning	1,330	1,980
Insurance	8,081	9,149
Printing, stationary and postage	514	976
Staff amenities	1,166	1,297
Telephone and internet	8,034	7,130
Utilities	<u>8,786</u>	<u>5,388</u>
Total other income	<u>27,911</u>	<u>25,920</u>
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>

Note 6 Cash and cash equivalents

<i>Current assets</i>		
Cash at bank and on hand	<u>355,576</u>	<u>165,733</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.

Connecting Foster Kinship Carers - SA Inc.

**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

	<u>2023</u> \$	<u>2022</u> \$
Note 7 Trade and other receivables		
<i>Current assets</i>		
Trade receivables	70	-

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.

	<u>2023</u> \$	<u>2022</u> \$
Note 8 Trade and other payables		
<i>Current liabilities</i>		
Trade payables & accruals	27,541	11,279
Credit card payable	2,915	-
Superannuation payable	1,601	1,390
Wages payable	574	1,918
BAS payable	22,535	30,943
	<u>55,166</u>	<u>45,530</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.

	<u>2023</u> \$	<u>2022</u> \$
Note 9 Grants in advance		
<i>Current liabilities</i>		
Grants in advance	18,671	-

Accounting policy for grants in advance

The liability for deferred income is the unutilised amounts of grants received on the condition that specified services are delivered or conditions are fulfilled.

	<u>2023</u> \$	<u>2022</u> \$
Note 10 Employee benefits		
<i>Current liabilities</i>		
Annual leave	58,438	45,076
<i>Non-Current liabilities</i>		
Long Service leave	20,185	-

Connecting Foster Kinship Carers - SA Inc.

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	<u>2023</u> \$	<u>2022</u> \$
Note 10 Employee benefits (cont)		
<i>Accounting policy for employee benefits</i>		
<i>Short-term employee benefits</i>		
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 11 Reconciliation of cash flows from operations		
Surplus/ (deficit) during the year	123,978	(49,710)
(Increase) / decrease in trade & other receivables	(70)	430
(Increase) / decrease in prepayments and other assets	4,081	(4,081)
Increase/ (decrease) in payables in payables and accruals	28,307	16,952
Increase/ (decrease) in employee benefits provision	33,547	11,595
Net cash flow generated from / (used in) operating activities	<u>189,843</u>	<u>(24,814)</u>
Note 12 Contingent liabilities and other commitments		
There were no significant contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2023 (30 June 2022: nil)		
There were no significant commitments as at 30 June 2023 (30 June 2022: nil)		
Note 13 Events after the reporting period		
No matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2023 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.		
Note 14 Economic dependency		
The association is reliant on the continuation of funding from the state government in order to continue operating. The Association has existing service provision funding with the government.		
At the date of this report the committee has no reason to believe that the government will not continue to support the association.		

Connecting Foster Kinship Carers - SA Inc.

Statement by Members of the Committee

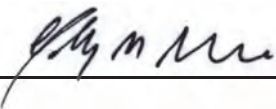
30 June 2023

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 2023 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 7th day of November 2023

CONNECTING FOSTER & KINSHIP SA INC
AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

We declare that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit of the financial report of Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers SA Inc for the year ended 30 June 2023.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'HLB Mann Judd'.

HLB Mann Judd Audit (SA) Pty Ltd
Chartered Accountants

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'C. McGowan'.

Corey McGowan
Director

Adelaide, South Australia
7 November 2023

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers – SA Incorporated

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers – SA Incorporated (“the Association”), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, 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 Company is in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance and cash flows 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 Regulations 2022*.

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 confirm that the independence declaration required by Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, which has been given to the Board, would be in the same terms if given as at the time of this auditor's report.

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.

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Responsibilities of Management and the Board for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation of the special purpose financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the relevant Australian Accounting Standards in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for Profits Commission Regulations 2022* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and for 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.

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.

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- 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.

We also provide the Board with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'HLB Mann Judd'.

HLB Mann Judd Audit (SA) Pty Ltd
Chartered Accountants

Adelaide, South Australia
13 November 2023

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'C.M. J'.

Corey McGowan
Director

hl**b.com.au**

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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 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;
- [Shona Reid, Guardian for Children & Young People](#) for their continued support of our foster and kinship carer community, and inviting us to road trip with the Guardian's team to meet regional carers and their young people;
- [April Lawrie, Commissioner for Aboriginal Children & Young People](#) for inviting the peak to participate in their recent Inquiry into the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle;
- [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;
- [The Honorable Blair Boyer, Minister for Education, Training and Skills](#) for their generous Skilling SA subsidy, facilitating our Carer students to undertake a qualification offered by CF&KC-SA & Bradford Institute;
- [The Honorable Nat Cook, Minister for Human Services](#) for their generous funding for our organisation to undertake quality accreditation and most importantly, develop our Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan over the 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years
- [Women's Legal Service of SA, Community Justice Services SA, 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;
- [Ross Womersely and the SACOSS team](#) for supporting our organisation to promote the voice, and needs, of family based carers;

And, THANK YOU to the many carers 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.