



ADVOCATING... Connecting Foster and Kinship Carers SA senior advocate Sharee Borlace has visited Kadina to advocate for foster and kinship carers.

Advocating for carers in regional areas

Jess Liddy
JOURNALIST

INADEQUATE carer payments, access to respite, inconsistent decision making and superannuation — these are just some of the key issues raised by foster and kinship carers in regional South Australia.

The state's peak body representing them, Connecting Foster and Kinship Carers SA, recently visited regional areas, including Kadina, to advocate for their rights and needs.

CFKCSA senior advocate Sharee Borlace said they had a productive visit to Kadina meeting with many foster and kinship carers, some of whom they had advocated for already and others they met for the first time.

"Some of the common issues they raised with us include the inadequacy of their carer payments to support the rising living costs of young people, getting access to respite, inconsistent decision making, and the impact that foster and kinship caring has on their superannuation," she said.

"We regularly hear from carers across the Yorke Peninsula and the state's Mid North about the challenges they're facing, and our visit to the region was an opportunity to connect with them face-to-face and learn more to better inform our advocacy and support for them.

"Our trip was also an opportunity to strengthen our relationships with foster agencies which can refer their carer clients to us for support."

Ms Borlace said advocacy was more than something that was simply nice for carers to have access to.

"It's a fundamental right for all carers, just like being in a union as a retailer worker," she said.

She encouraged foster and kinship carers to become members of CFKCSA.

"It's 100 per cent free and provides them with a platform to ensure their voices are heard and gives them access to a wealth of information and education."

For those in regional areas who may feel more removed, the group can provide a vital link to other carers and to resources they might otherwise struggle to access, she said.

"We work directly with the Department for Child Protection and the Minister for Child Protection, enabling us to advocate for the issues and needs of individuals while also influencing systemic change that benefits all carers."

The end of the road

Rachel Hagan
JOURNALIST

CLOSE to a decade in the making, stage two of the North Coast Road upgrade is nearing completion at \$400,000 under budget.

Recent works on the road, which runs between Point Souttar and Point Turton, have included about 1.8 kilometres of drainage and foot-path works.

Yorke Peninsula assets and infrastructure director Andre Kompler said engi-

neering staff and a design consultant had found a more cost-effective solution that would still have a long life.

"Helpful for stage two delivery was a very competitive contractor market, which enabled an additional \$400,000 saved relative to the original project budget without any compromise to quality or project delivery," Mr Kompler said.

The third and final stage of the road upgrade is due to start in December, but this is subject to availability of grant

funding.

The road is one of the council's best-used roads with about 500 vehicles per day travelling on it during the off-season and 1000 in peak season.

Mayor Darren Braund said the upgrade had already made it safer and enhanced tourists' experience.

"Yorke Peninsula is a magnet for intra-regional and interstate visitation, so positive visitor experiences are really important," Mr Braund said.



Yorke Peninsula Council assets and infrastructure director Andre Kompler and mayor Darren Braund are hoping the last seven kilometres of upgrades to North Coast Road will begin in December.

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