

ANNUAL REPORT

2023/24



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 OUR CHAIR

The Annual Report always provides an opportunity to reflect on the year that has been, and 2024 has certainly been another huge year for CF&KC-SA. Our advocacy service was, yet again, in high demand. The staff in our advocacy service are dedicated to supporting carers, and for those of you who have had the benefit of that support, I know you would have felt the extent of their care and attention. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated team, who are the backbone of our organisation – I thank them for all they give to the carer community.

The Carer Council has recently completed its final meeting for 2024, and it is clear that the group is providing excellent reflections and feedback direct to Government. Developing and facilitating the Council has been a big job for CF&KC-SA and we look forward to its continued contribution to the child protection landscape into 2025 and beyond.

A particular passion project of mine since becoming Chairperson has been the consultation and development process of the new child protection legislation. The draft bill, currently being debated in Parliament, is a good step towards better recognition for carers which, in turn, supports children's best interests. CF&KC-SA's CEO, Fiona and I have consulted broadly with parliamentarians on the proposed laws and we look forward to a swift passage through Parliament and implementation of the important reforms the bill proposes.

From a Board perspective, we have farewelled Phoebe Zander and Bindee Davis, and I thank them for their contributions. We have welcomed Danielle Gordon, Tara Forbes-Godfrey and Rob Dowling, all of whom have skills from which the organisation is benefitting significantly. A new strategic plan is almost finalised, and the organisation continues to be well managed from a financial and risk perspective. I thank all Board members for their time and dedication.

Finally, I want to highlight the dedication and hard work of our CEO, Fiona Endacott who this year has made further inroads in the complex but vital spaces of philanthropic support and national advocacy.



With the support of her team, Fiona has further advanced the carer voice and there is a lot to look forward to in 2025.

Thank you to our carer community. Your dedication, support and commitment to the children in your care is something I admire greatly, and it is a privilege to be the Chairperson of CF&KC-SA.

HOLLY VEALE
CHAIRPERSON

A WORD FROM OUR CEO

I am thrilled to present the 2023/24 annual report. As I reflect on the past year, it is evident Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers SA is flourishing from strength to strength. Our organisation is building upon its solid reputation as a professional, collaborative, solution driven peak body. Our organisational achievements are recorded within this detailed annual report, serve as a clear reminder of what the peak body achieves. We have continued to strengthen our existing professional relationships across the child protection system, and developed new collaborative partnerships with sector colleagues. These relationships have led to an increase in consultation with the peak body, including with parliamentarians, departments and priority partners proactively seeking input from CF&KC-SA as the voice of SA family based carers.

As the state's funded advocacy service, we recorded a significant growth in advocacy support over the past year, with cases presenting from metropolitan and regional South Australia. Our team have passionately supported foster and kinship carers to have their voice heard and their rights upheld whilst navigating the child protection system.

In addition to our increased advocacy, we proudly celebrated:

- our inaugural First Nation's carer cohort studying their Certificate IV in Community Services
- our 8th cohort of carers achieving their Diploma of Community Services, celebrating our 118th graduate
- our 9th cohort of students beginning their studies, with a record amount of 36 registrations
- the launch of our Minister appointed Carer Council, with three meetings conducted throughout the year
- successfully obtaining Certificate Level Quality Accreditation under the Australian Service Excellence Standards
- developing our Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan, a first for CF&KC-SA, in partnership with Ochre Dawn (to be launched early 2025)
- recognition as **finalists for two awards**—the HELP Community Champions Award and the South Australian Training Award for our Industry Collaboration with the Bradford Institute.
- increasing our meetings with parliamentarians across both houses, ensuring that the voices and priorities of our carers are represented at the highest levels.
- strengthening our partnerships with child protection sector allies, including GrandCarers SA, Young Carers SA, Child & Family Focus SA, The Reily Foundation, and CREATE Foundation. Together, we have pursued mutual goals in systemic advocacy and furthered our collaboration for the greater good of our carer community.



It is important for me to note, the work we have achieved would not be possible if not for our dedicated team members—Sharee, Nat, Emma, Niamh, Chloe, Lauren, Isabella, Tandanya, and Matthew — thank you. Your commitment, passion, and tireless work have made our progress possible. You embody the vitality and strength that is at the heart of our organisation, and I am deeply grateful to work with you.

As we move forward, I am filled with optimism and gratitude.

FIONA ENDACOTT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

OUR PEOPLE

OUR BOARD MEMBERS

NAME	POSITION	DATES
Holly Veale	Chairperson	From August 2022
Kelly Mathews	Vice Chairperson	From November 2017
Ben Haynes	Treasurer	From August 2022
Tara Forbes-Godfrey	Secretary	From October 2023
Dr. Damien Riggs	Board Member	From March 2023
Danielle Gordon	Board Member	From October 2023
Robin Dowling	Board Member	From November 2023
Phoebe Zander	Board Member	February 2021 - August 2023
Bindee Davis	Board Member	December 2022 - June 2024



Rob Dowling, CF&KC-SA Board Member



Danielle Gordon, CF&KC-SA Board Member



Tara Forbes-Godfrey, CF&KC-SA Board Member

OUR PEOPLE

OUR EMPLOYEES

NAME	POSITION	DATES
Fiona Endacott	Chief Executive Officer	November 2017
Natalie Baron	Administration & Events Coordinator	December 2016
Sharee Borlace	Senior Advocate	September 2020
Isabella Georgio (nee Furnari)	Carer Advocate	May 2021
Emma Feagan	Project Officer	January 2022
Lauren Gibbs	Carer Council Project Lead	October 2023
Chloe Lin	Carer Advocate	December 2023
Niamh Keller	Carer Advocate	March 2024
<i>Matthew Richardson</i>	<i>Project Officer</i>	<i>October 2023 - June 2024</i>
<i>Jacquie Nevin</i>	<i>Legal Consultant</i>	<i>March 2021 - September 2023</i>
<i>Tandanya Allain</i>	<i>Carer Advocate</i>	<i>April 2019 - January 2024</i>
<i>Zoe Dalton</i>	<i>Carer Advocate</i>	<i>August - September 2023</i>



Tandanya Allain



our team (l-r): Emma Feagan, Matthew Richardson, Isabella Georgio

OUR PEOPLE

OUR CARER COUNCIL MEMBERS

Carer Council members: metro & regional			
Lorraine Joy	Alex Ingleton	Kailah Hurditch	Ellese Nelson
Gail Ward	Kate Thomas	Gai McMichael	Dana Wright
Peter Kennedy	Suzanne Scanlon	Kob Schmaal	Emily Ware



OUR VOLUNTEERS & STUDENT PLACEMENTS

NAME	POSITION	DATES
Chloe Lin	Social Work student placement	July - November 2023
Matthew Richardson	Volunteer	July - October 2023
Rebecca Smith	Student in residence	February 2024



Rebecca Smith, CF&KC-SA student in residence

"I have recently started a part-time research Masters at the University of South Australia (Uni SA) where my project is: "Exploration of current practices supporting foster carers using play as a therapeutic tool with children in their care." This is an area that currently hasn't been well researched, and I am passionate to explore. The first phase of my project is a scoping review to explore the current literature regarding the use of therapeutic play with children in foster care in order to identify gaps and reported benefits. The second phase will involve running focus groups with foster care support agencies to explore current practices, barriers and opportunities for the use of therapeutic play. While I am doing this research I am going to be basing myself at the CF&KC-SA office one day a fortnight." - Rebecca Smith, Masters student

OUR IMPACT



583
enquiries



35
member
emails



20
workshops &
information
sessions



95
Facebook
posts



3
Carer
Council
meetings



4
regional trips



549
free
tickets to
value of
\$24,351



7 part time
employees



9 volunteer
Board
Members



21
parliamentarian
meetings



174
advocacy
meetings



2,948 hours
spent on
advocacy



118th carer
graduate



2
finalist
awards

ADVOCATE

The individual carer advocacy service (CAS) team was composed of 3 part time advocates from July to February 2024 (the equivalent of 2.3 full time workers), and 4 part time advocates from March to June 2024 (the equivalent of 3 full time workers). Our team included the Senior Advocate and 3 carer advocates.

During 2023-24, our individual carer advocacy service moved into its **sixth year** of operating as a funded service for carers. As per previous years, the advocates continually provided two types of services to carers and their representatives. These services were:

1. **Our Inform & Connect Service:** for enquiries that are resolved quickly, either during the initial call or shortly after via providing information and/or connecting the person to another service provider, group or event.
2. **Our Support & Advocacy Service:** for enquiries that need further investigation and continued support and advocacy case work to help resolve the matter and/or meet the person's needs.

"I was definitely struggling before I contacted the Carer Advocacy Service and since having them as an advocate for me, all the stress has been relieved..." - carer feedback, 2024

A year in review

The individual carer advocacy service reported **583 enquiries** (an 8.2% increase from last year). 481 of these enquiries were responded to using our Inform & Connect service, and 102 of these enquiries became cases via our Support & Advocacy service.

Across both services for the 2023/24 period, our Carer Advocates reported:

- 2948 hours spent delivering the individual Carer Advocacy Service
- 1972 calls received/made
- 4871 emails received/sent
- 1806 texts received/sent
- 174 meetings
- 404 hours spent representing the individual carer advocacy service at 221 sector-focused meetings/events

"It is such a pleasure to lead a dynamic and passionate carer advocate team. The team is deeply committed to walking alongside our foster and kinship carers to ensure that their voices are heard, rights are upheld, and are treated as the experts in their children and young people's lives. On a daily basis, we see the challenges that our family-based carers face, and the team fiercely advocate individually and systemically for the changes that carers inform us they need to care for the State's most vulnerable children.

Carers are the backbone of out-of-home care and are the fundamental piece to positive outcomes for these children and young people. The team here are super excited and hopeful to continue the fierce advocacy necessary for the positive change our carer community needs."

SHAREE BORLACE

SENIOR ADVOCATE



ADVOCATE

Inform and Connect Service

This year, we informed and/or connected 481 carers or their representatives.

Our Carer Advocates:

- Answered their questions and provided guidance that helped resolve their enquiry in the initial call.
- Provided resources, contacts, and referrals to other services when most appropriate.
- Informed carers of opportunities to take part in workshops, support and reference groups, and other connection and social events when relevant.
- Pointed carers into the direction of our carer guides that address knowledge gaps, helping carers to understand and address specific matters on their own when preferred.
- Encouraged the carer to become a member and contact our service again when in need of extra support, information, and potential advocacy.

Support and Advocacy Service

This year, we supported and advocated for 102 carers or their representatives.

Our Carer Advocates:

- Offered empathetic and confidential support, free from conflict of interest.
- Listened carefully to understand their needs and validated their feelings.
- Informed them of their rights and entitlements under relevant legislation and policies.
- Ensured carers and their care teams understood their roles and responsibilities.
- Communicated with the DCP and support agency and attended care team meetings to represent the carer's voice and meet their needs.
- Provided them with ongoing support and information related to their case.
- Helped carers prepare for meetings to ensure their voices were heard and goals met.
- Spoke on behalf of carers when needed.
- Assisted with internal and external reviews of DCP decisions.
- Empowered carers by helping them understand their choices and the impact of decisions.

"Our Carer Advocate did everything they could and I was so happy to have them; honestly, I would have been lost without them!" - carer feedback, 2024

NIAMH KELLER CARER ADVOCATE



"As Carer Advocates, we work closely with carers to make sure that their rights are upheld, needs are met, and that they are informed and consulted in decision-making processes.

We walk alongside carers to uplift their voices so that the important role they play as part of a child's care team and child protection system more broadly, is recognised, valued and respected.

Our services are also essential in ensuring every carer who contacts us is adequately supported to care for children, and that carers experiencing a gap in services able to meet their needs are helped by us where possible. We take a collaborative and relationships-based approach to help facilitate transparent and effective communication between all parties, with the best interests of children and young people at the centre of what we do."

SUPPORT

Regional Trips

This year, our advocates made four regional trips to connect with carers and support agencies in rural areas who may not have had the opportunity to meet us in person. Carers came along to our meeting events and brought their peers with them, providing the chance to introduce ourselves, our organisation, and ensure each carer was invited to become a member. The advocates visited Port Lincoln and Port Augusta in partnership with CREATE Foundation, and Port Pirie and Kadina in partnership with both CREATE Foundation and Child and Family Focus South Australia (CAFFSA).



Peak body collaboration roadtrip
Melissa Gibson (CAFFSA), Sharee Borlace (CF&KC-SA),
Angela Baddour & Laura Hooper (CREATE)



Carer regional roadtrip
Sharee Borlace (CF&KC-SA) & Karen Wauchope
(Uniting Country SA)



Pt Augusta roadtrip
Sharee Borlace (CF&KC-SA) & Laura Hooper
(CREATE)

Grief and Transition Support Group

Our Senior Advocate, Sharee Borlace, and volunteer co-facilitator, Lorraine Joy, continued to offer our specialised Grief and Transition Group. This group supports carers with the emotional impact of disenfranchised grief and loss of a child in care who they provided care for or know. The group is a safe space for carers to share their experiences, feel validated, and connect and relate to their peers.

This year, we hosted 8 sessions with the invaluable support of Lorraine, a dedicated foster carer trained in Restorative Justice Practice. Both Lorraine and Sharee brought their passion and care to every session and helped create the sharing circle that carers need. We are truly grateful for their involvement.



SUPPORT

Legal Literacy for Carers

Our advocacy case work shows us that carers can find themselves confronted by legal proceedings and that legal literacy would be an invaluable skillset for carers in these instances. This year, we successfully attained a small grant from The Law Foundation of South Australia to co-facilitate a legal literacy information session for carers with JusticeNet SA. The session was administered and informed by us, presented by Rebecca Plummer (CEO of JusticeNet SA), and had 40 carers register their attendance.

The session provided introductory legal fundamentals to help foster and kinship carers understand their rights and responsibilities and how to be informed about and participate in decision-making processes in the legal landscape. The session helped show carers how to confidently advocate for themselves and the children in their care and outlined the legal fundamentals in child protection, including different types of legal assistance available to carers. We received valuable feedback from carers who attended, which will inform future information sessions and carer guides on the topic.

We thank JusticeNet SA and The Law Foundation of SA for their financial support and participation.



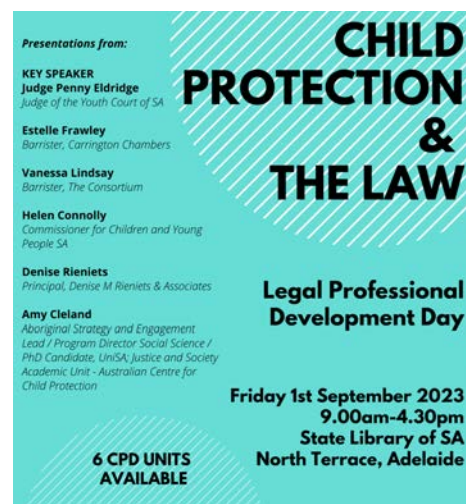
Legal Training Day

During September we held our third Child Protection & The Law Legal Training Day at the State Library of South Australia. The training day offered six CPD sessions for legal practitioners, designed to upskill attendees in understanding Family Law, preparing Carers for SACAT, listening to children & young people's experiences within the child protection system and translating the best interest of Aboriginal children and young people in the legal system. We were fortunate to once again have Judge Penny Eldridge from the SA Youth Court to present on care and protection in practice, and how legislation protects children.

We are proud to offer Legal Training Days to the legal community, as an additional mechanism to ensure the carer voice is heard, and ensuring practitioners are informed on how to support carers and young people under guardianship.



The Hon. Judge Penny Eldridge, SA Youth Court & Fiona Endacott



Proudly presented by



Full Program and registration available via the QR code or: www.cfc-sa.org.au/legal-training-days/



Enquiries to Jacquie Nevin, CF&KC-SA Legal Consultant

CONNECT

This year, we continued to offer our carer membership the opportunity to attend information sessions, workshops, and events. We used feedback from our 2022-23 annual carer survey to ensure the topics presented were useful to carers, and our events were both social and informative, providing carers the chance to connect to each other and attend activities as a family. These opportunities were planned and organised by our Administration and Events Coordinator, Natalie Baron, who also helped monitor our social media pages and execute our regular member emails.

A year in review

During the year we delivered a phenomenal amount of opportunities for carers to connect, stay informed, learn new information and enjoy events across SA.

- 20 workshops and sessions
- 13 events
- 9 family events
- 549 complimentary and discounted tickets
- 35 member emails
- 1,043 foster and kinship carer members
- 197 professional associate members
- 95 Facebook posts
- 1,800 Facebook likes
- 2,000 Facebook followers



Workshop and Session Topics

- Coping skills for carer families
- Legal literacy for carers
- Long term guardianship
- The Voice referendum
- Cyber safety for families
- Caring for children and young people with disability and developmental delay
- Understanding your child and healthy development
- The role of the grandparent by Service's Australia's Foster & Kinship Advisers

Support groups

- Grief and transition support
- Healing circle support

"It was a joy to get the ticket to attend the opening of the Elvis show, which I would not have been able to see otherwise. It was such a spectacle – the very excited and involved audience in their glad rags, the wonderful colourful ensemble dance and song pieces, and the clever way they told the story with photos and conversations. And the singing and music were wonderful – as an over 70 year old I was amazed that I knew all the songs! A wonderful and uplifting experience, with gratitude to our sponsor for their generosity" – Kinship Carer feedback

CONNECT

Events

- Carer “meet and greet” with Jackie Bray, CEO, DCP
- Carer morning tea with The Hon. Katrine Hildyard, Minister for Child Protection
- Child Protection & the Law: Training Day for Legal Professionals
- National Foster & Kinship Care Conference Tasmania
- CF&KC-SA Recharge + Thrive Event
- CF&KC-SA Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- Closing the Gap Day
- CF&KC-SA Open Board Meeting.
- Carer Information Session in Pt Lincoln (regional event)
- Create Connection Event in Pt Augusta (regional event)
- Tarpari Wellbeing Day- community event in Pt Pirie (regional event)
- Carer “coffee and chat” in Kadina (regional event)
- Create World Connection Day

Ticketed Family Events

This year, we received complimentary and discounted tickets to **the value of \$24,351** from donors so that carer families could enjoy a family outing at the following events:

- Razzamatazz circus
- Royal Adelaide Show
- VAILO Adelaide 500 at SA Premier’s suite
- Adelaide Festival Shows
- Santa’s Wonderland
- Natural Wonders at Adelaide Botanic Gardens (Adelaide Fringe)
- Sleeps Hill Tunnel Light Show (Adelaide Fringe)



*Thank you Adelaide Fringe!
Fiona Endacott with Heather Groall AM, Adelaide Fringe CEO & Katherine Peach Adelaide Fringe Business Development Manager*



NATALIE BARON

ADMINISTRATION & EVENTS COORDINATOR

“Through regular Member emails and Facebook posts, we share information to support SA Foster & Kinship Carers, including opportunities to further their knowledge through our 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 and discounted 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 2024-25. I am proud to be part of our small but hard-working, compassionate team, providing support and advocacy for Carers.”



Chloe Lin & Niamh Keller at Aboriginal Family Support Services Children's Event



Dan Mitchell, AFSS Acting CEO & Sharee Borlace at Aboriginal Family Support Services Children's Event



Minister Katrina Hildyard, Jackie Bray, DCP CEO with carer members and CF&KG-SA board and staff at May open board meeting

Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)

In mid 2023, we secured a Department for Human Services' (DHS) 2023/24 Governance and Sustainability grant to help fund us to develop a Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). Given that First Nations children are over-represented in child protection, we understand that strategising our reconciliation journey is a crucial initiative. We consulted with Ochre Dawn Creative Industries throughout the year to ensure our Reflect RAP will help us to meaningfully engage in and execute our commitment to reconciliation.

Our 12-month long RAP is in the process of being endorsed by Reconciliation Australia and we anticipate launching our RAP early 2025.

CF&KC-SA's RAP working group includes:

- Fiona Endacott, CEO
- Emma Feagan, Project Officer
- Tara Forbes Godfrey & Rob Dowling, Board members

We look forward to supporting CF&KC-SA meaningfully pursue true reconciliation as the bedrock of the crucial work we do for carers.



Quality Accreditation

The DHS Governance and Sustainability grant also helped us to renew our accreditation. Quality Innovation Performance Ltd. (QIP) is an approved accreditor that assesses organisation's quality of service against DHS' Australian Service Excellence Standards (ASES). Our assessment was conducted by QIP, and we successfully attained the Certificate Level. We are proud to share this with the sector, as it is a testament to the professional, skills based work we do.

"It was fantastic to be here for another year, working on systemic advocacy and operational projects.

Projects I am most proud of and enjoyed included taking the lead to research and write our submission to the EFC inquiry into home care, overseeing the superannuation entitlements and mental health proposals led by Matt Richardson, channelling my appreciation for statistics by improving our approach to collecting and presenting data, and leading our development of CF&KC-SA's first Reflect RAP, thanks to our successful DHS grant application that came to fruition this year.

Foster and kinship families are at the forefront of every decision we make as the peak. I can't thank you enough for doing what you do."

EMMA FEAGAN

PROJECT OFFICER



INFORM

The Education Champion program

CF&KC-SA continued to participate in the Education Champions Program. Each term, Education Champions, a group of representatives from government, non-government, and not-for-profit organisations from the child protection sector, attend "linkup" meetings with the Department for Education's Children in Care Service to learn how to better support children in care with their education. These meetings offer opportunities to build relationships with key department staff, gain and exchange knowledge, and for us to share insights from the carer perspective.

Carer Advocate, Isabella Georgio, continued as CF&KC-SA's Education Champion and attended linkups that covered the following topics:

1. Suspensions, exclusions and expulsion processes, and the current reviews that are in place.
2. Trauma-informed practice in education and the Department for Education's Trauma-Aware Schools initiative.
3. Personalised learning plans, the Inclusive Education Support Program (IESP), and supporting young people at risk of disengaging from education.

CF&KC-SA emphasised the vital role that carers play in their child's education, advocated for their voice to be represented in all decision-making processes, and suggested dedicating a future session specifically to the role of foster and kinship carers within the education system.



ISABELLA GEORGIO
CARER ADVOCATE

"I look forward to continuing my role as Education Champion, further increasing my knowledge of the education system, and sharing it with the advocacy team and carers we support."



CHLOE LIN
CARER ADVOCATE

"As a carer advocate, I've truly valued the opportunity to support and empower carers in navigating the complexities of their roles. It's rewarding to help carers feel heard, validated and supported as they provide such incredible care for children and young people. The role comes with its challenges, especially in addressing the emotional toll and systemic barriers that carers often face. Even when decisions are final and cannot be appealed, ensuring carers' rights and voices are respected is both challenging and fulfilling. This work continuously inspires me to make a difference in their lives."



SYSTEMS ADVOCACY

Our systemic advocacy addressed widespread issues by conducting and submitting formal responses to public and stakeholder-only consultation requests, participating in committees and reference groups, and facilitating and conducting research and reports. The team also contribute to policy development, maintain and establish relationships with parliamentarians, government and non-government leaders and staff, and engage in journalistic and media activities. They also work on building the reputation of family-based carers.

The top 5 **systemic issues** in foster and kinship care according to South Australia's carers during the year (annual carer survey 2023-24) included **low carer payments, unmet carer mental health needs, inaccessible respite care, the care concerns process, and reduced superannuation.**

In light of these issues, CF&KC-SA engaged in an array of advocacy efforts including:

- 4 submissions to public inquires and private consultation requests.
- 53 committee/reference group meetings.
- 2 research reports conducted.
- 4 quarterly reports on workforce practice issues provided to the DCP.
- 2 feedback contributions to DCP policy/procedure reviews.
- 11 meetings with the Minister for Child Protection and Minister's Office.
- 24 meetings with the Department for Child Protection CEO, other staff, or reference/committee groups.
- 10 formal meetings with parliamentarians.
- 7 State Election Asks endorsed.
- 12 letters written to parliamentarians and stakeholders.
- 33 meetings with external stakeholders, including chief executives

A detailed summary of systemic advocacy against our annual survey topics is listed below:

Carer Payments (Advocacy Summary)

- Submitted a 42-page report to the Inquiry into Home Care for Children and Young People (SA Parliament's Economic and Finance Committee).
- Held a reference group with carers to inform the Inquiry submission on payments and superannuation.
- Met with Tammy Franks, MLC (SA Greens), and Sian Davies to discuss related topics.
- Consulted with Dr. Greg Ogle (Policy Officer) from the South Australian Council of Social Services on improving carer payment frameworks.
- Submitted feedback to the Department for Child Protection's Flexible Respite Consultation, highlighting financial commitments for carers affected by respite placements.
- Produced a research report with University of South Australia students on unpaid care labour and policy implications.
- Met with Rick Persse, Under Treasurer, to discuss low carer payments and carers in reference to the state budget.
- Held two meetings with Kate Fox, CEO of the South Australian Financial Counsellors Association, to discuss payment issues and financial counselling advocacy.

SYSTEMS ADVOCACY

Carer Mental Health (Advocacy Summary)

- Produced a research report with University of South Australia students on the mental health and wellbeing of foster and kinship carers.
- Submitted a letter of support to the Flinders University Ethics Committee for research on vicarious trauma in Australian foster care (Dr Damien Riggs).
- Developed a business case proposal for an in-house foster and kinship carer counselling support program.
- Sent a proposal letter to Rick Persse, Under Treasurer, about the counselling support program.
- Attended a Mental Health Needs Roundtable with parliamentarians and key stakeholders to discuss the current state of play for mental health support, and lack thereof, for South Australians.
- Submitted three grant applications for the counselling support program, of which we were successfully shortlisted for the Impact100 SA grant to “tackle inequality”.

Respite Care (Advocacy Summary)

- Conducted a literature review on the attraction and retention of respite carers for the Inquiry into Home Care for Children and Young People submission.
- Submitted a survey response to the Department for Child Protection's Flexible Respite Consultation.

Care Concerns (Advocacy Summary)

- Participated in the Expert Consultative Group for the Department for Child Protection's Care Concerns Reform Project (CCRP).
- Supported 8 carers to join the Expert Consultative Group and share their direct experience safely.
- Engaged in 4 feedback sessions with the Department for Child Protection on the CCRP.
- Submitted a letter of support to the Flinders University Ethics Committee for research on care concerns in South Australian foster care (Dr Damien Riggs).

Superannuation (Advocacy Summary)

- Developed a business case proposal for implementing superannuation entitlements for SA foster and kinship carers.
- Included a section on superannuation contributions for carers in our submission to the Inquiry into Home Care for Children and Young People.
- Sent a letter to, and met with, Rick Persse, Under Treasurer, introducing our proposal on superannuation entitlements for carers.
- Engaged senior counsel to explore legislative possibilities for superannuation.
- Featured in a Nova 919 radio interview with Connie Bonaros, MLC (SA Best), discussing support for superannuation for carers.
- Cited in a March InDaily article reporting on advocacy for carer superannuation, referencing our research and ongoing advocacy at state and federal level.
- Met with SA parliamentarians and lobbied the urgent need to action superannuation entitlements for carers.

BI-PARTISAN LOBBYING



CF&KC-SA staff and Board members met with parliamentarians over the course of 2023/24 to amplify the voice of carers and ensure carers are at the forefront of their minds when discussion legislation and policy outcomes for community.

Parliamentarians pictured clockwise from left:

- The Hon. Tammy Franks, MLC (Greens SA)
- The Hon. Nadia Clancy MP, Member for Elder
- The Hon. Lucy Hood MP, Member for Adelaide
- The Hon. Connie Bonaros, MLC (SA Best)
- The Hon. Olivia Savvas MP, Member for Newland
- The Hon Fraser Ellis MP, Member for Narungga (Independent)
- The Hon. David Spiers, Opposition Leader

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 across Australia. Whilst each jurisdiction operates under its own child protection legislation and operates under different funding parameters, the issues facing our foster and kinship carers do not stop at the state lines. Together the NFKCC works to amplify the carer voice and leverage off of the victories of each peak, to ensure all Australian carers are supported and represented.

Throughout the year the Collective met bi-monthly, with two face to face opportunities in Hobart and Sydney. The Collective refined our strategic direction, adding two additional key action areas to our plan, making for a total of nine:

1. Raising the status of Australian foster and kinship carers
2. Appropriate compensation for Australian foster and kinship carers
3. Wellbeing support for Australian foster and kinship carers
4. Respite access for Australian foster and kinship carers
5. Cultural connectivity opportunities
6. High quality, consistent, trauma informed training for Australian child protection stakeholders
7. Disability access and support
8. Legal services access for Australian foster and kinship carers
9. Education system barriers removed

The Collective shared insight and planning for the annual National Foster & Kinship Care Conference, which is rotated around each jurisdiction each year. In 2023, we were fortunate to attend the conference in Hobart, Tasmania, and CF&KC-SA had the honor of presenting a breakout session on the Diploma qualifications for carers program, in partnership with our carer graduate Felicity Bryan and David Bradford, from The Bradford Institute of Advanced Education.



Tasmania conference presentation (left): Fiona & David Bradford; (below) Fiona with Felicity Bryan



The NFKCC Team (l-r): Amanda Thompson (NT), Kim Blackhouse (Tas), Samantha Hauge (VIC), Fiona Endacott (SA), Bryan Smith (QLD), (Fay Alford (WA) Absent)

OUR DIPLOMA PROJECT

Our partnership with Registered Training Organisation The Bradford Institute continued during 2023/24, with our 8th cohort of students successfully studying and graduating with their Diploma of Community Services. We celebrated our **118th carer graduate** receiving their parchment at Parliament House, hosted by The Honorable Mira El Dannawi MLC on behalf of The Honorable Katrine Hildyard MP. 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 education opportunities 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.

We are thrilled to share our partnership with Bradford has bloomed positively. After two years of planning and deep conversations with stakeholders, we welcomed our inaugural First Nation's carer cohort of students in March 2023. Our group of First Nation carers began studying their Certificate IV in Community Services at Tauondi College in Port Adelaide. We will celebrate their graduation in late 2024.

This course continues to change the lives of our carer members and as a result change the shape of our South Australian community.



Above: cohort 8 graduates, December 2023 at Parliament House



First Day of inaugural First Nations cohort at Tauondi College
Left: Fiona with Chris Barrett, Principal Trainer at the Bradford Institute; Tara Forbes-Godfrey, CF&KC-SA Board Member

SA Training Award Finalists for
Industry Collaboration with The
Bradford Institute



CARER COUNCIL

The Carer Council was a key recommendation from Dr Fiona Arney's Independent Inquiry into Foster and Kinship Care. It provides a dedicated platform for appointed carers to voice issues crucial to improving the child protection system directly to the Minister for Child Protection. The Carer Council is a ministerial advisory council and was established this financial year. Advisory councils offer independent advice and expertise on specific issues to provide feedback on policy and practice. The relevant Minister and government decide whether to accept and implement the advice and the Minister can shape the council's structure, suggest discussion topics, and request advice on specific matters.

The Carer Council is administered by CF&KC-SA and led by our Carer Council Project Lead, Lauren Gibbs. The Council comprises of 12 Minister-appointed foster and kinship carers who represent the broader carer demographic: 5 foster carers (3 metropolitan based and 2 regionally based) and 7 kinship carers (4 metropolitan based and 3 regionally based). Four of our Carer Council members identify as First Nations People.

During the 2023/24 period the Carer Council reported:

- 3 council sessions.
- 1 additional out of session meeting.
- 6 key topics explored with advice given to the Minister on retention and attraction of carers, The Statement of Commitment, care concerns, respite care, carer remuneration, and sibling connections.
- 65 recommendations made, including sub-recommendations.
- 16 internal administration meetings with the CEO
- 1 public consultation on the CC's topics that engaged 18 carers to
- 400 incoming/outgoing phone calls
- 2,005 incoming/outgoing emails (inclusive of Project Lead inbox)

Thank you to Carer Council members Alexandra Ingleton, Dana Wright, Ellese Nelson, Emily Ware, Gai McMichael, Gail Ward (Deputy Chair), Jakob Schmaal, Kailah Hurditch, Kate Thomas, Lorraine Joy (Chair), Peter Kennedy, and Suzanne Scanlon for their dedication and invaluable contributions, and we extend this to Dana Shen, the Carer Council's Facilitator. The report and communiques summarising the three meetings are available on our website.



LAUREN GIBBS

CARER COUNCIL PROJECT LEAD

"Administering the Carer Council is more than just organising—it's about empowering its members to make a real difference to the lives of carers and the children and young people they support through systemic advocacy.

As a foster parent myself, I am honoured to contribute to this important work as it is already close to my heart."

A WORD FROM OUR TREASURER

The 2024 Financial Year has a consolidation of revenue and expenses that were created in the previous financial year when we decided to take on the responsibility of the Carer Council. While the financials show a significant loss, this reflects the extra funding payment being recorded in 2023, while a majority of the expenses were recorded in the 2024 financial year.

Finding ways to allocate these resources while not committing the organisation to ongoing expenses has been a challenge for Fiona and the team this year. This was dealt with fantastically and in a financially responsible way.

Just like much of the country, we have been dealing with the increased costs of maintaining the organisation, without the same increase in revenue. However, I'm very happy to report that we have seen a significant increase in grants and donations during the 2024 financial year, which is reflective of the team's hard work and commitment to financial sustainability.

Congratulations needs to go out to Fiona and her team on another great year in managing a tight budget while maintaining high service levels to the Carer Community.



BEN HAYNES
TREASURER

Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers - SA Inc

ABN: 20 480 116 610

Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Connecting Foster and Kinship Carers - SA Inc.

Contents

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

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Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Revenue			
DCP contract grant income		711,166	750,227
Sponsorship income		-	-
		<u>711,166</u>	<u>750,227</u>
Other income	4	<u>81,427</u>	<u>20,200</u>
		<u>792,593</u>	<u>770,427</u>
Expenses			
Administration expenses	5	(32,551)	(25,267)
Grant expense		(9,580)	(1,269)
Computer expenses		(27,381)	(11,429)
Consultancy expenses		(11,026)	-
Meeting and conference expense		(15,534)	-
Education and training expenses		(25,830)	-
Employee benefits expense		(646,600)	(461,034)
Rent expense		(38,331)	(37,834)
Relocation expense		(28,019)	-
Legal expenses		(4,675)	(30,525)
Advertising and promotion expense		(34,275)	(4,483)
Affiliation and subscription fees		(10,717)	(5,908)
Events expense		(20,788)	(18,643)
Client support expenses		(3,356)	(2,815)
Accounting and audit expense		(11,618)	(12,267)
Motor vehicle expense		(969)	(1,735)
Volunteer expense		-	(145)
Foster carer expense		(3,886)	(14,910)
Travel and accommodation expenses		(29,743)	(4,407)
Other expenses		(5,440)	(2,085)
Total expenses		<u>(960,319)</u>	<u>(634,756)</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		(167,726)	135,671
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		<u><u>(167,726)</u></u>	<u><u>135,671</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and other equivalents	6	163,015	355,576
Trade and other receivables	7	-	70
Prepayments		53,640	2,680
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		216,655	358,326
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant & equipment		-	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		-	-
TOTAL ASSETS		216,655	358,326
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	8	77,398	43,473
Grants in advance	9	-	18,671
Employee benefits	10	62,619	58,438
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		140,017	120,582
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee benefits	10	26,805	20,185
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		26,805	20,185
TOTAL LIABILITIES		166,822	140,767
NET ASSETS		49,833	217,559
EQUITY			
Retained surpluses		49,833	217,559
TOTAL EQUITY		49,833	217,559

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Changes in Equity
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Note	Retained surpluses \$	Total equity \$
2024			
Balance at 1 July 2023		217,559	217,559
Surplus/(Deficit) attributable to members		(167,726)	(167,726)
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
Balance at 30 June 2024		<u>49,833</u>	<u>49,833</u>
2023			
Balance at 1 July 2022		81,888	81,888
Surplus/(Deficit) attributable to members		135,671	135,671
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
Balance at 30 June 2023		<u>217,559</u>	<u>217,559</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Operating Activities			
Receipts from grants, subsidies and donations		770,663	788,635
Payments to suppliers and employees		(966,553)	(599,185)
Interest received		3,329	393
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	11	(192,561)	189,843
Financing Activities			
Other cash item from financing activities		-	-
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities		-	-
Net Cash Flows		(192,561)	189,843
		355,576	165,733
Net change in cash for the year		(192,561)	189,843
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of year	6	163,015	355,576

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

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 **13th November** 2024

Note 2 Material accounting policies

The material 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 124 'Related Party Disclosures', 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 2024

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.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

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.

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Note 4 Other income		
Grants & donations	71,265	8,926
Interest income	3,329	393
Other income	6,833	10,881
Total other income	<u>81,427</u>	<u>20,200</u>
	<u>2024 \$</u>	<u>2023 \$</u>

Note 5 Administration expense

Cleaning	1,750	1,330
Insurance	8,309	8,081
Printing, stationary and postage	2,074	514
Staff amenities	1,653	1,166
Telephone and internet	10,453	8,034
Utilities	8,312	6,142
Total other income	<u>32,551</u>	<u>25,267</u>
	<u>2024 \$</u>	<u>2023 \$</u>

Note 6 Cash and cash equivalents

<i>Current assets</i>		
Cash at bank and on hand	<u>163,015</u>	<u>355,576</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 2024

	2024 \$	2023 \$
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.

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Note 8 Trade and other payables		
<i>Current liabilities</i>		
Trade payables & accruals	79,394	14,679
Credit card payable	306	2,915
Superannuation payable	34	1,601
Wages payable	197	574
BAS payable	(2,533)	23,704
	<u>77,398</u>	<u>43,473</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.

	2024 \$	2023 \$
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.

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Note 10 Employee benefits		
<i>Current liabilities</i>		
Annual leave	62,619	58,438
<i>Non-Current liabilities</i>		
Long Service leave	26,805	20,185

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

		2024 \$	2023 \$
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	(167,726)	123,978
	(Increase) / decrease in trade & other receivables	70	(70)
	(Increase) / decrease in prepayments and other assets	(50,960)	4,081
	Increase/ (decrease) in payables in payables and accruals	15,254	28,307
	Increase/ (decrease) in employee benefits provision	10,801	33,547
	Net cash flow generated from / (used in) operating activities	<u>(192,561)</u>	<u>189,843</u>
Note 12	Related party transactions		
	(a) Key management personnel		
	The remuneration of key personal short term employee benefits totalled: \$257,705 (2023: \$226,450)		
	(b) Transactions with related parties		
	There were no related party transactions in the year ended 30 June 2024, (2023: nil)		
Note 13	Contingent liabilities and other commitments		
	There were no significant contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2024 (30 June 2023: nil)		
	There were no significant commitments as at 30 June 2024 (30 June 2023: nil)		
Note 14	Events after the reporting period		
	No matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2024 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 15	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 2024

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 2024 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 2022.

On behalf of the members of the committee



Chairperson



Board member

Dated this **13th** day of **November** 2024

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER SUBDIVISION 60-C SECTION 60-40 OF AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS COMMISSION ACT 2012

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

As the lead audit partner for the audit of the financial report for the year ended 30 June 2024, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of:

- i. the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, in relation to the audit; and
- ii. any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



HLB Mann Judd Audit (SA) Pty Ltd
Chartered Accountants



Corey McGowan
Director

Adelaide, South Australia
14 November 2024

hlb.com.au

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Independent Auditor's Report to the Committee of Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers – SA Incorporated

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

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 2024, 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 material accounting policies, and the statement by the members of the committee.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Association 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 2024 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 *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (“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 Committee, 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.

Responsibilities of the Management and the Committee for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and for such internal control as management determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

The Committee 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 the Committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Committee'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 Committee 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
14 November 2024

hlb.com.au

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Corey McGowan
Director

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CF&KC-SA would like to acknowledge the many supporters and contributors to our organisation.

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;
- [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;
- [The Department for Child Protection](#) for contributing funds towards the Carer Advocacy Service;
- [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;
- [The CREATE Foundation](#) for their support and partnership, at events and on regional trips;
- [Child & Family Focus SA](#) for their collaboration and support with us as the carer peak, including our voice in submissions and pursuing areas of mutual advocacy;
- [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;
- [Orlo One](#) 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;
- [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;

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.