



Caring Together

Information and news for foster and kinship carers in South Australia Issue 2 | 2021



Message from the Chief Executive

Dear carers

I am delighted that our staff were able to celebrate Foster and Kinship Carer Week with you. I was, and continue to be humbled by the significant difference that you make to the lives of the children and young people in your care. I hope that many of you had the opportunity to get involved in the week's festivities.

Valuing carers and acknowledging your contributions is something we are committed to doing every day. On 8 September, DCP held the first ever SA Child Protection Awards in partnership with NAPCAN to celebrate the achievements of our partners and carers. Congratulations to all the winners, finalists and nominees with special mention to those in the 2021 SA Foster and Kinship Carer of the Year award categories.

Lately I've been reflecting on how incredible the carer community is. The past 18 months have been challenging for many people, but the need to support children and young people in care has been more important than ever. I've been moved to hear from DCP staff and our partners about carers' dedication to children and young people during this time. I feel an enormous amount of pride. Thank you for everything you do.

I hope you enjoy this special Foster and Kinship Carer Week issue of *Caring Together*.

Cathy Taylor

Chief Executive, Department for Child Protection

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CHILD PROTECTION AWARDS



The inaugural SA Child Protection Awards, held on 8 September celebrated the achievements of our partners who provide vital support to vulnerable children and young people and inspire others to support children and young people in care.

The 13 categories of awards recognised a range of partners, including Foster Carer of the Year and Kinship Carer of the Year who were awarded for providing a safe, loving and enriching home for children and young people in their care. *Read more in the liftout.*



Foster Carer of the Year



Katina Karam, Ceduna



Kinship Carer of the Year



Leslie Wanganeen, Adelaide



Government of South Australia
Department for Child Protection



Staying safe against COVID-19

Eligibility criteria for COVID-19 vaccines have changed making more of us eligible than ever before. Anyone over the age of 12 is now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine in South Australia.

The Department for Child Protection is very supportive of all eligible children and young people in care receiving the COVID-19 vaccination, acknowledging that young people over the age of 16 years can make decisions about whether they receive a COVID-19 vaccination.

“ Anyone over the age of 12 is now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine in South Australia ”

Your child or young person’s DCP case worker can:

- make a vaccination booking for the child or young person in your care
- arrange transport to attend a SA Health COVID-19 vaccination clinic
- provide age-appropriate information about being vaccinated and the benefits to assist the child or young person in making an informed choice

More information for carers is available on the DCP website:

childprotection.sa.gov.au/carers/resources-for-carers/coronavirus-covid19

To find the most up to date information or to book an appointment, go to:

sahealth.sa.gov.au



Fun for all ages

- *OzAsia Festival* runs from 21 October to 7 November. Lots of events are free, including the Moon Lantern Trail: ozasiafestival.com.au
- *Children’s Week 2021* is on from 22-31 October: sachildrensw.org.au
- The *SA Maritime Museum* is running Autism Friendly Sensory Sessions on 23 and 24 October: maritime.history.sa.gov.au/events
- The National Pharmacies Christmas Pageant will be held at Adelaide Oval on 13 November: christmaspageant.com.au
- *Science Alive!* from 20-21 November has loads of interactive exhibits for all ages. Free entry for under 3s: sciencealive.net.au



Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers SA

Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers SA is the independent peak representative body for foster and kinship carers in South Australia. They offer opportunities for carers to:

- connect with other carers
- receive information about caring
- access help and advocate for change
- discuss issues and receive support from a peer – someone who understands and can share caring experiences

To find out more or to become a member go to: cfc-sa.org.au



Government of South Australia
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Liftout
Foster and
Kinship Carer
Week

Celebrating carers during Foster and Kinship Carer Week 2021

In a year that has been unpredictable at times, carers and staff appreciated the opportunity for everyone to come together to celebrate the contributions of carers during Foster and Kinship Carer Week 2021 which was held from the 12th to the 18th of September. The week was a success with carers and staff from across the state getting involved. We hope you enjoyed the festivities!



Carer brunches, lunches and dinners

There were lots of opportunities across the state to celebrate the week with tasty treats. Whether you attended a picnic in Whyalla, lunch in the Riverland or morning tea in Mount Barker – thank you for coming along and letting us celebrate with you!

The Hon Rachel Sanderson MP, Minister for Child Protection with carers at DCP's Northern Carer lunch

Display at DCP head office

DCP celebrated carers with a display at the department's head office in Adelaide CBD. Staff from across the department, as well as from support agencies, showed their appreciation for foster and kinship carers through messages of thanks which were displayed in the foyer, alongside recent artwork competition winners and foster care recruitment material.



Sharing carers' stories

The media joined in to celebrate carers. Here are just a few of the stories:

- 5AA Our State, 'Foster and Kinship Carer Week': ourstatesouthaustralia.buzzsprout.com
- Port Lincoln Times, 'Grandparents relish kinship carer experience': portlincolntimes.com.au/story/7420312
- The National Tribune, '30-somethings put up their hands to care for children and young people': nationaltribune.com.au/30-somethings-put-up-their-hands-to-care-for-children-and-young-people



The Advertiser,
12 Sept 2021



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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CH

About the awards

Winners of the first ever South Australian Child Protection Awards were announced at an award ceremony in Adelaide, held on Wednesday 8 September during National Child Protection Week.

The awards, delivered by DCP in partnership with NAPCAN, build on DCP's own staff recognition awards.

Across 13 categories, the awards showcase the outstanding efforts of individuals and organisations across a range of areas including education, health, research, foster and kinship carers, government, non-government and philanthropic organisations.

“When we spoke to one of the carers who was nominated for an award, she said “I'm not outstanding, I'm just looking after my children. I'm not doing anything extraordinary.” Actually, she is doing something extraordinary and she is doing something outstanding”

- Cathy Taylor
Chief Executive, DCP

The Hon Steven Marshall MP, Premier of South Australia, The Hon Rachel Sanderson MP, Minister for Child Protection and Cathy Taylor, Chief Executive Department for Child Protection, all spoke at the ceremony, with Jessica Adamson as MC.

Congratulations to our 2021 South Australian Protection Award winners and finalists, and to all who were nominated!

“I want to say a massive thank you to our foster carers and ...you must be ve

- The Hon Steven Marshall MP,
SA Ch



Kinship Carer of the Year

★ Leslie Wanganeen ★

Congratulations Leslie on winning Kinship Carer of the Year! Pictured above is The Hon Rachel Sanderson MP, Minister for Child Protection (left) with Bindee Davis (centre) and Amalie Mannik, Centacare SA (right) who accepted the award on Leslie's behalf at the ceremony.

Read more about Leslie at:

centacare.org.au/les-wanganeen-awarded-kinship-carer-year

watch the ceremony at:

CHILD PROTECTION AWARDS

Making a difference for our children and young people

Give a big thank you to all our kinship carers and other special people

Premier of South Australia
Child Protection Awards 2021



Foster Carer of the Year

★ **Katina Karam** ★

Congratulations Katina on winning Foster Carer of the Year! Katina (centre) is pictured with The Hon Rachel Sanderson MP, Minister for Child Protection (right) and Haley Manning, Centacare Catholic Country SA (left).

Read more about Katina at:

portlincolntimes.com.au/story/7425548/Ceduna-carer-takes-victory

★ Foster and kinship carer finalists

Kelly Donaghay, Port Pirie.
Foster Carer of the Year, Finalist



Dallas and Melissa Ballard, Ceduna. Foster Carer of the Year, Finalist



Rebecca Turner, Adelaide.
Kinship Carer of the Year, Finalist



Vicki Rigney, Adelaide.
Kinship Carer of the Year, Finalist



Josh Savage and Lucy Mastrangelo, Bordertown.
Foster Carer of the Year, Finalist



Bindee Davis and Karen Weeks, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Placement Principle, Finalist



Lee Lawrie, APY Lands. Kinship Carer of the Year, Finalist (not pictured)

Thank you, foster and kinship carers

Messages of thanks from DCP

Ahead of Foster and Kinship Carer Week 2021, the department mailed out thank you cards to carers. We hope they arrived safely in your mailbox.

There were lots of DCP staff who wrote messages of thanks to carers. We have shared a few of their 'thank you' messages below.



Minister for Child Protection

Watch the Minister's thank you message to carers at: [facebook.com/childprotectionSA](https://www.facebook.com/childprotectionSA)



The thank you card artwork is by young person Zeisha.

Thank you for opening your heart and your home, for persevering through the challenging times, and for standing by when the healing begins. You are inspirational. You help make a difference.

- Jenn
DCP Placement Services

“ Thank you for the work you do every day, all year ”

- The Hon Rachel Sanderson MP
Minister for Child Protection

When you open your house for the young person, you are not only giving them a home, you are giving them opportunities, possibilities, safety and security. Your stable home environments can do wonders for the young people coming into your care. So for that, thank you.

- DCP Placement Services Worker

Thank you for making a positive difference in the lives of so many children and young people. Your willingness to open your homes to children in need gives them the opportunity to thrive and feel excited for the future.

- Sue
DCP Executive Director, OOHC

Thank you for opening your hearts and homes to children in need and for continuing to work in collaboration with the system. It's not easy but I'm grateful you are here and providing love and nurture that is so needed.

- Mena
DCP CARU

Great caregivers are hard to find, difficult to part with and impossible to forget!

Thank you!
- Skye
DCP Kinship Care Worker

What amazing work you do!

- DCP Placement Services Worker

“ I was, and continue to be humbled by the significant difference that you make to the lives of the children and young people in your care ”

- Cathy Taylor
Chief Executive, DCP



Government of South Australia
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New sports school scholarships

Do you have a young person in your care who wants a career in the sports industry? Through a new partnership between Department for Child Protection and SEDA College SA, up to ten sporting scholarships will be offered to young people in care.

SEDA College SA provide an innovative education program immersed in the sport and recreation industry and students can pursue their secondary education through study and workplace training in the sporting streams of netball, soccer, football (AFL), cricket and basketball. Young people can complete their Year 12 education, whilst also participating in work experience in the industry and gaining VET qualifications.

“ We are really excited to be able to give enthusiastic sports-minded young people in care the chance to follow their passion and build a career in sports ”

- Matthew Daly,
Principal SEDA College SA

The program will see scholarship recipients receive full tuition and learning support, laptops, textbooks uniforms and excursions, plus traineeships with industry sporting partners. Scholarships commence in year 11 and continue until the young person completes year 12.

Expressions of interest close soon. To express an interest or find out more, speak to your child's DCP caseworker as soon as possible.



Free VACSWIM program

Did you know primary school aged children in care can access a free water safety and survival program through Surf Life Saving SA (SLSSA)?

The VACSWIM program will be offered through December 2021 and January 2022 and registrations are now open.

To register a child in your care for free:

1. Find your nearest location and check for available places at: vacswimsa.com.au
2. Register for free by calling SLSSA on **8354 6996**, rather than booking online

*some locations may charge a 'location fee'



New school for 17-24 year olds

A new, fee free special assistance school is opening in Davoren Park in January 2022. Compass Catholic Community is an education and community services 'village' for young people aged 17 – 24 who are wanting to move back into education. The school is trauma informed for young people who have disengaged from schooling and employment.

If you know a young person that may want to attend the school, speak to your young person's DCP case worker or contact the school at:

info@compass.catholic.edu.au

More information is available at: cesa.catholic.edu.au/compass-catholic-community



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Department for Child Protection



DCP online platform for carers

Being a carer can be challenging at times, but having the right information can make a big difference.

DCP is committed to ensuring carers have the information they need which is why we created an online platform for carers. The platform is the central place to find information about how DCP works, resources for carers, what you can expect as a carer, the latest news and lots more.

As a department, it's our role to understand and respond to the needs of carers. Your feedback is meaningful to us and helps us continuously improve the resources we provide to carers. Carers can provide feedback at the bottom of each webpage by using the 'Was this page useful to you' function.

Visit the platform and keep an eye out for new resources coming soon!

What's new online



Stories from carers and young people

Hear from carers and young people about their experiences in long-term, short-term, emergency and respite care.



Safety around the home

Learn about keeping children safe inside and outside of the home, on the road, around the pool and when using weighted items.



Disability/development informed care

Explore information and resources to better understand children and young people in care with disability.

Navigating the platform



How DCP works

Information for carers about how DCP operates



Who can say OK

Information about making decisions for children in care



Resources for carers

Helpful websites and tools for carers



Carer news

News to keep carers up to date



Caring Together

Every issue of the carer newsletter



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Visit the carer platform at:

childprotection.sa.gov.au/carers