



# CARING TOGETHER



Information and news for foster  
and kinship carers in South Australia



## Message from the Chief Executive

Dear Carers,

Welcome to our first issue of Caring Together for 2023!

I hope you had a happy festive period and were able to find some time to relax.

With Term 1 of the school year now underway, we've dedicated this edition of Caring Together to the education supports and initiatives available to help the children and young people you care for in their academic endeavours.

In the following pages, you'll find interviews with staff from the Department for Education's Children in Care service. This service helps schools respond to the specific needs of children and young people in care throughout the state.

There's also information about the department's Over 18 Education Initiative, the Dame Roma Mitchell Grants, and a new leadership program, which all aim to help students excel beyond the classroom.

You'll also hear from Thao, one of the department's Multicultural Services team members. Thao was recognised for her work with carers at the recent 2022 DCP Staff Recognition Awards and shares how she and her colleagues support carers from different backgrounds.

As many of you are aware, the report of the Independent Inquiry into Foster and Kinship Care was handed to the State Government late last year. Thank you to the 149 foster and kinship carers who provided personal feedback via a submission to this review. Work started immediately on addressing recommendations in this report, and I'm pleased to share more about this on page 4.

It's with a sense of sadness that this first edition of the year also marks my last as Chief Executive of DCP. I announced my resignation last month and will finish with the department in late April. After more than 6 years in the role and a wonderful Christmas break with my family, it's time.

As I reflect on my tenure, I think about you, the inspiring carers, who are such a crucial part of the child protection system.

I want to thank you for protecting and nurturing children and young people and going above and beyond to support them each and every day. The care you give provides a foundation from which young people have the opportunity to thrive and succeed in life and supporting you, and watching you in action, has been one of the greatest highlights of my career.

**Cathy Taylor**

Chief Executive, Department for Child Protection

## Dear Carers

I hope this edition of Caring Together finds you refreshed, well and happy post-Christmas and New Year and that the 2023 school year has started smoothly.



Whether it's helping a child start preschool, settle into reception or supporting a young person at the other end of their schooling journey as they start on new pathways, this edition of Caring Together is full of education stories and resources that I hope you find useful.

It has been really lovely and also informative to continue my commitment to meet with as many of you as possible, with three carer forums held in recent weeks.

These forums have provided an important opportunity to speak with you about the Foster and Kinship Care Inquiry, understand your views and discuss the next steps in addressing the report's recommendations. Thank you very much to those who have attended to date; your insight, experiences and willingness to share are so valuable. The discussions build on the immediate commitments we have made to progress recommendations relating to care concerns, flexibility in respite care and the establishment of a Carer Council.

Any recommendations that require legislative reform will be referred to the review of the *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017*.

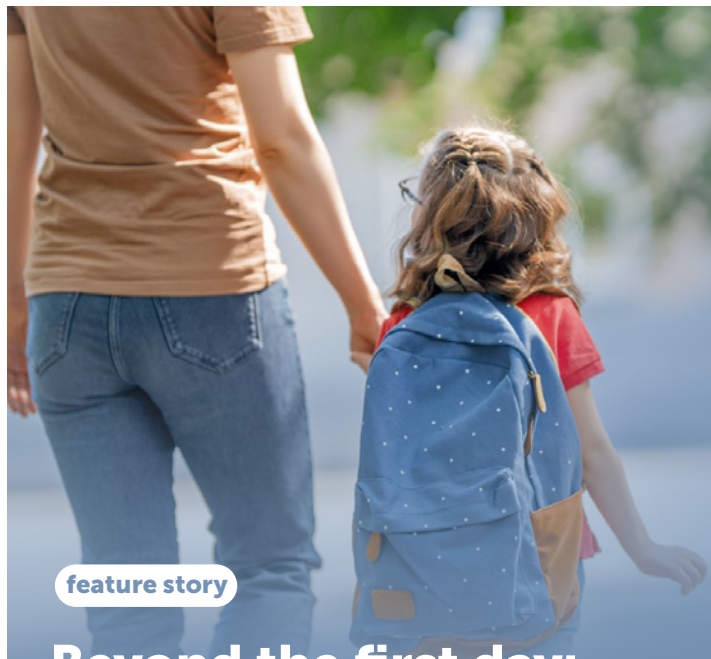
Over the coming months, I am holding more carer forums and roundtables. Details can be found at [cfc-sa.org.au](https://cfc-sa.org.au). I really look forward to sharing more information about these sessions with you soon.

I acknowledge the resignation of DCP Chief Executive Cathy Taylor after nearly seven years of dedicated service. Cathy has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of children and young people in care. Amongst challenges, Cathy has persevered. I wholeheartedly thank her and wish her the very best.

The recruitment process is underway for a new CE, to build on the work Cathy has led, create new opportunities and to help lead our vision towards reforming child protection. I look forward to sharing further updates with you as this important undertaking continues.

Thank you again for your remarkable dedication for opening your hearts, homes and lives to children and young people in South Australia and for caring for them with commitment and compassion. You make a difference.

**The Hon Katrine Hildyard MP**  
Minister for Child Protection



### feature story

## Beyond the first day: Helping the children or young people in your care settle in to the school year

**For many children and young people, Term 1 of the school year involves a process of settling in.**

Whether or not 2023 has marked a big transition, like starting primary or secondary school or changing to a new school, it can take most children a while to find their feet after the summer holidays.

For children and young people who have experienced trauma, times of change can be particularly tricky as most of those in care have already had to go through a lot of changes in their short lives.

You can read more about trauma and transitions on DCP's website ([bit.ly/traumatransitions](https://bit.ly/traumatransitions)) including the range of emotions that might be bubbling under the surface this term for the child or young person you care for.

As a carer, you play a very important role in supporting a child or young person's education. There is a lot you can do to help the child in your care to thrive this year, so read on for some tips.

### **Build a relationship with the school:**

- Get to know the teachers.
- Find out key dates for the term as early as possible. Knowing when things like excursions, camps, sports day, school closures, and casual days are due to take place can help you plan ahead with the child you care for.
- Make sure a One Plan is in place for the child and participate in regular reviews. One Plans are personalised learning plans supporting children's inclusion and achievement in preschool and school. Try to maintain open communication with relevant teachers to ensure the supports in the plan are implemented and achieved. Information about One Plan is available online ([bit.ly/dcponeplan](http://bit.ly/dcponeplan)).
- Attend parent-teacher meetings.
- If you feel that the child or young person in your care is struggling, talk to their teacher.

### **Acknowledge the range of emotions that might come up:**

- Ask the child or young person about their day and talk about how they're feeling.
- Expect and accept some big emotions and challenging behaviours to erupt when they get home. Focus your energy on helping them manage this. For some, it will be all about burning off stress (like playing chasey at a local park), while others might need to feel still and be held (like sitting in your lap and reading a favourite story together).
- Ask about their new experiences at school, what they are enjoying, and what they are finding hard.
- Be positive and enthusiastic, but remind them that it's also normal to feel nervous.

### **Encourage social connections and extra-curricular activities:**

- Help the child or young person to keep in contact with important friends from kindy, primary school, or their previous class.
- Encourage any interest they show in different clubs, activities and sports. Try to find the right balance between participation and over-programming – you know best what their limits are.

### **Support learning at home as well as at school:**

- Regularly chat with teachers and with the child or young person to know what they are learning about at school. Show an interest and ask questions.
- Know what their schedule looks like.
- Help them to develop good study habits by setting a time for homework in the evenings (if relevant). If possible, set up a quiet space where they can study without too much distraction.
- Talk about homework and let them know you're available to help when they need it.
- On the weekends, visit places like museums, national parks, or sites of cultural significance. If possible, make connections between what you see and what they're learning at school.
- Talk about stories in the media and important world events.

### **Draw on extra supports if needed:**

- The Department for Education's School Retention Program works with young people in care from primary school to 17 years, who are most at risk of disengaging from education. If you think this could be the case for the young person in your care, talk to your case worker as they may be eligible for tutoring or mentoring services. See more on the School Retention Program on our website under the 'Learning support' dropdown tab: [bit.ly/DCPEducationSupport](http://bit.ly/DCPEducationSupport).
- Children and young people with a disability or additional needs can receive extra support from their preschool or school through the Inclusive Education Support Program ([bit.ly/IESPDisability](http://bit.ly/IESPDisability)). Speak to your case worker for more information or visit our website.
- Talk with the school and make sure the child gets the educational and social support they need.
- Supporting a child in care along their educational journey can be a big job! Remember that you can always call on your child or young person's case worker for support, ideas, and advice when you need it.

UPDATE



## Legislative Review

**Thank you to carers for your valuable contributions to the review of the state's child protection legislation.**

The initial community consultation period has now finished.

The State Government committed to consult widely to understand what is working well and how we might improve the legislation as part of the review.

We held 16 public consultation sessions in metropolitan and regional locations across the state, including seven targeted forums for Aboriginal people. Stakeholders also had the opportunity to provide a written submission or share their feedback via an online survey.

Community feedback, along with other evidence and examples of best practice and a number of recommendations from the Carer Inquiry, are now being considered in the preparation of a report for the Minister for Child Protection.

The final report is expected to be tabled in Parliament in March 2023.

Following the State Government's consideration of the report, the Minister is committed to a further round of consultation this year on draft legislation.

We look forward to continuing this important community conversation with you.

The Discussion Paper is still available online and includes further information about the review's focus. Read it here:

**[bit.ly/DCPCYPSDiscussionPaper](https://bit.ly/DCPCYPSDiscussionPaper)**.

If you have any questions about the review in the meantime, please contact the review team at **[DCPCYPSACTReview@sa.gov.au](mailto:DCPCYPSACTReview@sa.gov.au)** or visit the review page on our website for more information.

## Inquiry into Foster and Kinship Care

The report of the Inquiry into Foster and Kinship Care was released by Minister for Child Protection Katrine Hildyard in December 2022 and has been tabled in Parliament on 9 February 2023. The full inquiry report can be found online: **[bit.ly/inquiryintofostercare](https://bit.ly/inquiryintofostercare)**.

At the time of its public release, the Minister acknowledged the issues raised by the 149 carers and other members of the public who shared their views. In addition to a series of immediate actions, the Minister also committed to ensuring that carers across the state would have an opportunity to reflect and provide feedback through dedicated forums. Three forums have been held to date with more to follow and will support the government in finalising a full response to Dr Arney's recommendations.

As a department, we are also committed to a continuing conversation with carers and carer support agencies about what is working, and where we can improve the way we work together to care for children and young people.



## Staying strong as a carer

Being a carer for a child or young person who needs support is a deeply meaningful and important thing to do. Regardless of how long a child spends in your home, your care will help to build layers of resilience that will continue to support them as they move forward in life. At the same time, any caregiver can acknowledge that there are times when caring is a demanding role!

Finding ways to take time for yourself, connecting with other carers, and managing stress are all important elements of self-care. You can find some advice and links on how to look after your wellbeing on DCP's website: **[bit.ly/carerwellbeingresources](https://bit.ly/carerwellbeingresources)** (scroll down to the sub-section on 'What can I do to help?').



### Empty nesters Sonia and Brenton open their homes

Sonia and Brenton decided there was space to share in their home after their eldest children began moving out.

Since then, the couple has welcomed more than 20 children and young people into their care at Roxby Downs and their former home in Tumby Bay.

The couple began fostering in 2009 and has two children and a young person living with them long-term.

"Brenton and I have always been really child-focused and we wanted a large family," Sonia said.

Sonia said opening her home to children had been "brilliant", and she loved helping them meet developmental milestones.

"It's pretty exciting seeing them sit for the first time and start to use words," she said.

"It's very rewarding to see them doing things they couldn't do a month ago."

Sonia said while it was difficult to say goodbye to children in her care, it was fantastic to see them reunited with family members – and exciting to meet the babies and toddlers who will come into the couple's care next.

The couple's biological children enjoy spending time with the children, who share a close bond.

"They all get on really well – they're all from different families but they're as tight, if not tighter, than any siblings," Sonia said.



Roxby Downs carers Sonia and Brenton

"We're hoping we can inspire other people to become carers."

Sonia said DCP, Uniting Country SA and Centacare Country SA had offered excellent support and training to make the couple's fostering journey easier.

"If you have a lot of support, you're never alone and it takes a whole village to raise a child," she said.

Sonia and Brenton are currently supported by foster care agency Uniting Country SA, which works to ensure every child and young person is raised in a safe and loving home.

Uniting Country SA Executive Manager, Yvonne Barker, said her organisation was grateful for the role foster carers played in providing kind, safe, loving and nurturing support to children and young people.



### In the news

Christmas 2022 was extra special for Centacare foster carer, Jane Stewart. It marked her first Christmas as the long-term foster carer of adorable two-year-old twin boys, who were born with complex and chronic health conditions.



# Life story work



**Life story work is an ongoing process that commences when children and young people first enter into care.**

Life story work can help children and young people understand where they came from and maintain a connection with their identity and birth family.

For Aboriginal children and young people, life story work helps them learn about their culture and connect them with their own personal and cultural journey.

An Aboriginal life story book (ALSB) is the tool we use together with Aboriginal children and young people to collect and share all sorts of things. An ALSB can hold a child or young person's own artwork, letters from their siblings, and information about their cultural background. Photographs that record memories such as holidays and pets can also be added, alongside important documents like a copy of a birth certificate.

For Aboriginal children and young people, the Aboriginal life story book is especially important because it contains information about their cultural and family groups, elders, and their Dreaming story and kinship genograms. The life story book, in its current hard copy form, is something that belongs to the child or young person and is somewhere they can express themselves through saving things they love and show who they are.



It is important that carers show young people they are interested in the life story work. Here are some ways you can help a child or young person with their life story work:

- Ask them what they would like to include and who they would like to be involved at different times.
- Make updating their book a regular activity, being worked on gradually, and being remembered when important events, milestones and achievements occur.
- Go gently, keeping in mind it might be a gradual process as they become more comfortable sharing information about their families and time in care.
- At times they may only want to focus on the present or may want information that is not sequential – follow their lead.
- Answer questions and provide information as requested. If you need help answering questions, speak to your case worker.



Whilst your support worker can help you with life story work, remember the case worker for the child or young person can also provide support and will have access to other DCP staff such as Principal Aboriginal Consultants or Aboriginal Family Practitioners.

More information about life story work is available online: [bit.ly/lifestorywork](https://bit.ly/lifestorywork).

## Meet Thao from our Multicultural Services Team!

Social worker Thao Hoang from DCP's Multicultural Services Team recently won the Partnering with Carers Award at the 2022 DCP Recognition Awards.

We chatted to Thao about her role, and the support the Multicultural Services Team provides to carers more broadly.

### What drew you to working with DCP/the Multicultural Services team?

Supporting vulnerable culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities and families has always been my passion and DCP's Multicultural Services allows me to follow this passion both at the individual and systems levels. I was very impressed by the team's work ethic and positive energy and, most important of all, their passion and dedication when working with people regardless of their backgrounds. In addition to being competent social workers, they are all amazing human beings!

### Tell us a bit about your work with carers.

It's nothing but an absolute delight! I enjoy working alongside carers and supporting them as much as I can. We might hit bumps sometimes, but if we come from a place of collaboration, respect and shared best outcomes for children and young people, the challenges can turn into opportunities. Seeing carers' utmost commitment to the children and young people in their care has inspired me to do better every day.



DCP Chief Executive Cathy Taylor, Thao Hoang and Minister for Child Protection the Hon Katrine Hildyard MP.

### What support does the Multicultural Services team provide for carers?

We provide cultural consultation to help carers advocate for the cultural needs of children from CALD backgrounds. We love meeting carers and providing them with the right support in connecting children and young people with their culture. Just recently, I've helped some children attend Vietnamese language school and participate in local community events, which they absolutely love. We also support carers to have a broader understanding of DCP processes and expectations.

### How can carers get in touch?

Email us at [DCPMulticulturalServices@sa.gov.au](mailto:DCPMulticulturalServices@sa.gov.au). If you're reading this and interested in the work we do, we hope to hear from you soon!

## Enrol in preschool!

Children in care are eligible to attend 12 hours a week of government preschool once they turn 3.

Going to preschool helps children learn new things, make friends and become confident learners. Preschool enrolments occur at any time of the year.

Speak to your DCP case worker to discuss the child's preschool needs and enrolment options. You can also find your preschool catchment area on the Department for Education website: [education.sa.gov.au](https://education.sa.gov.au).



## Personal leadership scholarships for 2023

in partnership with  
**YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES**

The Department for Child Protection has partnered with Youth Opportunities to offer scholarships for a personal leadership program to young people aged 15-25 with a care experience.

The three month, self-paced program is designed to:

- Build young people's strengths, motivation and confidence.
- Support them to create and plan how to achieve their goals.
- Help them develop habits, skills and attitudes to succeed in their goals.

Participants have a personal coach throughout and attend online group workshops to share their experience with other young people in the program. All they need is access to a computer and internet, and the motivation to learn.

The first cohort of participants graduated from the program in December. There are still spots available for the next intake, which will start in March 2023. To find out more details or register a young person's interest email: **CPReform@sa.gov.au**.

One young person who completed the first program labelled it as a "personal toolkit for how young people can meet their potential."

"Everything is compiled in one place: enough for you to learn while also giving you strategies to tailor to your own needs," he said.

"It's at your own pace and there is no judgement around wanting to learn and best equip yourself for success through self-improvement."

"Areas of interest for me included communication, goal setting, happiness and gratitude, self-image and confidence, and how to achieve success through a growth mindset."

"I enjoyed the habit and clear intentions part of the program that helps you to make goals from small to big. I must admit applying the tools to create habits has improved my overall lifestyle. I see that consistency will compound into something worthwhile that translates into achieving goals that you made."



## Supports for children and young people with autism

Children and young people with a diagnosis of autism make up a significant proportion of the children and young people in care with a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) plan. With the support of DCP disability consultants, case workers work with carers and the NDIS to ensure NDIS plans support the goals and needs of individual children and young people.

Children and young people with autism have their own unique strengths and areas they need support in. As well as supports provided by the NDIS there are a range of resources and supports available in the community.

For example, the Department for Education has implemented a range of improved support services for children and students with autism in 2023 including:

- appointing an Autism Inclusion Teacher in every primary school
- increasing the number of staff in preschools with qualifications in autism
- exploring opportunities to offer more early childhood intervention services in children's centres
- supporting schools to sign up to the Autism Friendly Charter
- providing more specialist staff in schools.

Information about resources and supports can be found through the Australian Government Disability Gateway ([bit.ly/disabilitygatewaysa](https://bit.ly/disabilitygatewaysa)). These include peer activities, in person and online workshops, factsheets and videos. Other helpful resources can also be found at The A List ([alisthub.com.au](https://alisthub.com.au)). This is a platform to help young autistic people (from as young as 7) and their families find social and group activities all across Australia.

## Spotlight on...

### Over 18

### Education Initiative

Abbi Van Der Tuuk recalls the time when, as a child, she told her DCP case worker, "I'm going to be your boss one day".

The Whyalla resident, now 21, who had an early insight into where her working life might carry her, is preparing to start her final year of a social work degree at the University of South Australia.

Abbi and her foster carers, Joylene and Alby, are among many families supported by DCP's Over 18 Education Initiative.

The program helps support young people and their carers, extending carer payments until a young person turns 25 if they continue to study and meet eligibility requirements.

The initiative is offered to young people completing secondary or tertiary education, including Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Flexible Learning Options (FLO), along with those undertaking the full time components of an apprenticeship.

Abbi said she was inspired to help others after being surrounded by DCP social workers from a young age.

"I was seeing what they did and how it helped a lot of young people," she said.

"I also have lived experience in this area so I know what it's like for young people who didn't have a great start to life."

Abbi has already gained a range of experience in the field, having worked at Mission Australia as a care mentor, and Uniting Country SA as a contact facilitator.

While unsure exactly which options she will pursue after university, Abbi is interested in working with young people at risk in Whyalla.

In addition to the Over 18 Education Initiative, the department also offers the Stability in Family-Based Care program.

Under Stability in Family-Based Care, carers who continue to care for a young person after they turn 18 years of age can if eligible receive extended payments until the young person turns 21.

To apply for either program, young people aged 17-and-a-half and their carers just need to complete an application form which is accessible on DCP's website: [bit.ly/post-18](https://bit.ly/post-18).

Abbi



More information about DCP's Over 18 Education Initiative and the Stability in Family-Based Care programs is available on the Carers section of the DCP website: [bit.ly/sfbcfactsheet](https://bit.ly/sfbcfactsheet).

## Encouraging young people to have their say

Do you know a young person aged 15 to 25 with a care experience who wants to have their say on child protection projects and services?

Our No Capes for Change young person group is looking for new members to work on projects that will help us better listen to, and work with, children and young people.

We're looking for young people who are willing to participate in discussions and give feedback, enjoy working in a team and can make it to monthly meetings.

To find out more, email our Youth Engagement Team at [DCPCYEProgram@sa.gov.au](mailto:DCPCYEProgram@sa.gov.au) or visit [bit.ly/nocapesforchange](https://bit.ly/nocapesforchange).



## Roving Reporter



with

### Tanya Russo

Senior Social Worker,  
Department for Education's  
Children in Care service

*In each edition of Caring Together, our Roving Reporter interviews individuals and organisations making a difference in the lives of children and young people and their carers. This time, we look at how the Department for Education's Children in Care service is helping children and young people in care to thrive.*

#### What does the Children in Care service do?

The service aims to improve education outcomes for children in care in government preschools and schools across South Australia. It provides advice and information to build schools' capacity to be trauma responsive, and works with the Department for Child Protection to ensure children in care have the right support and conditions for learning to reach their full potential.

#### How does the service support schools?

The team of specialist education social workers provides evidence-based trauma informed strategies to preschools and schools. This may include establishing a 'team around the child', developing a shared understanding of the child's individual circumstances, developing child-centred goals with a focus on safety and relationships, suggesting ideas to provide the child with positive experiences and providing professional development to educators.

#### What sort of changes have you seen among students as a result of the service?

We have been able to influence reductions in suspensions and exclusions, sharing of information to ensure that schools are making informed decisions, providing support and guidance relating to school transitions and use of funding, ensuring supports and resources are identified and in place, and raising the visibility of children in care in education policy and program reforms.

## Feedback from our first online newsletter distribution

In November 2022, the majority of South Australian foster and kinship carers received their copy of Caring Together by email for the first time.

Shifting to online distribution has a number of benefits. It is more eco-friendly as it saves paper as well as the fossil fuels required to deliver physical mail by post. It also saves the department money on printing and postage, which can be used for other important work.

### Here are some of the highlights from our first e-distribution:



More than **2500 carers** received Caring Together by email.



We **saved nearly \$2000** in printing costs.



The number of views of the newsletter on DCP's website **increased by 78%** compared to the previous issue.



Viewers spent an average of **4 minutes and 57 seconds** on the Caring Together page of our website. This is an 82% increase compared to the previous issue.

If you haven't yet made the switch to paperless communications, it's not too late! Have a chat with your case worker, or complete the form online: [bit.ly/carerpriorities](https://bit.ly/carerpriorities).

Do you have an idea for a story you'd like to see in Caring Together or good news you'd like to share with other carers?

Get in touch via [DCPCarerPartnerships@sa.gov.au](mailto:DCPCarerPartnerships@sa.gov.au) to let us know what you'd like to read about!



## 20 years of supporting young people

From helping young people learn to drive, to paying for essential furniture and whitegoods, the Dame Roma Mitchell grants have been supporting young people for two decades.

This year marks the 20-year anniversary of the Dame Roma Mitchell Trust Fund, established to support young people with a care experience to have greater opportunities to access items and services that they may otherwise struggle to secure independently.

Each year features two grant funding rounds, and the first for 2023 is open for applications until Friday 10 March.

Trust Fund chair, Colleen Fitzpatrick, says the grants help young people with a care experience to attain items such as household furniture, computers, and whitegoods, and services related to professional or self-development, health, and driving lessons.

Colleen says while a washing machine or refrigerator are often basic items for independent living, for many young people, these items represent “so much more”.

“(For example), a refrigerator may mean that a young person can budget better as they are able to pre-plan meals and purchase food accordingly. They also have the opportunity to make healthier food choices because they have access to safely refrigerated fresh goods,” she says.

“A laptop not only creates access to education but access to online supports and services, connection with community, and entertainment, which are contributing factors to emotional regulation.”

Colleen says amid the pandemic, the number of yearly applications increased from 191 in 2019, to 374 applications in 2022.

Since DCP took on the program’s administration in 2018, more than \$637,000 has been distributed to young applicants.

The Dame Roma Mitchell Trust Fund began in 2003 with money designated by the State Government and the SA Council for Social Services, to help people who are or have been in care.

It was named after Dame Roma Mitchell who, in her role as a judge, championed early child protection legislation. She later went on to become the state’s governor.

For more information about the program, to apply for funding or donate, visit the Dame Roma Mitchell grants section of our website: [childprotection.sa.gov.au/drmg](https://childprotection.sa.gov.au/drmg).



## Noticeboard

### Riverland Carer Support

State government support is available for Riverland communities affected by floods, including carers.

To find out about the support available, speak to your support worker about your individual situation. Foster care and kinship care support agencies and DCP Riverland and Murray Bridge staff are here to help.

Visit [bit.ly/riverlandcarersupport](https://bit.ly/riverlandcarersupport) for details on assistance measures and more.

### Free internet access for students

Free internet access is available to students who don't have reliable internet at home, as part of a Department for Education program.

It's called the Student Home Internet Program and is available to all SA government school students.

Visit [bit.ly/freeinternetaccess](https://bit.ly/freeinternetaccess) to find out more and sign up for the program.

### Change to the service delivery model

To ensure a more consistent approach to the delivery of child protection services across the state, the Department for Child Protection is bringing additional staff on board in the first half of this year.

This work will see the realignment of some office boundaries and, in some cases, transitioning of staff between offices.

Ensuring there is minimal disruption to children, young people, carers and families is a key focus of this work and careful consideration is being given to maintaining relationships that are critical to a child's wellbeing.

The department will be communicating directly with children, young people and carers who are likely to be impacted over the coming months.



### Access \$100 sport vouchers for children in care

Carers can now access \$100 vouchers to help cover the cost of signing children up to sports and physical activities.

The Sports Vouchers program is a Government of South Australia initiative designed to encourage more school-aged children in Reception to Year 9 to take part in organised sport or learn to swim activities by reducing cost as a barrier.

One voucher is available per child per calendar year.

Carers are encouraged to take advantage of the scheme by discussing with children the types of sports and physical activities that may be of interest to them. Visit the Sports Vouchers website to find an approved provider and complete the voucher form: [sportsvouchers.sa.gov.au](https://sportsvouchers.sa.gov.au).

For further information about claiming the sports voucher visit the Investing in their future online hub ([bit.ly/InvestingInTheirFuture](https://bit.ly/InvestingInTheirFuture)) on our website, which also provides details about other services available to children and young people in care.

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IN THE  
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