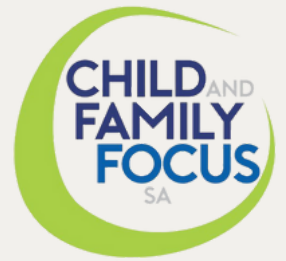


CAFFSA NEWS

<https://www.childandfamily-sa.org.au/>



April, 2024



Organisations Featured

- [Department for Child Protection](#)
- [Grandcarers SA](#)
- [Connecting Foster and Kinship Carers - SA Inc](#)
- [Australian Association of Infant Mental Health](#)
- [LBI Foundation](#)
- [CREATE Foundation](#)

Top News

CAFFSA addresses critical issues including concerns over the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility, transparency in funding policies for non-profit organisations, consent laws in South Australia, and the proposed Portable Long Service Leave for the Community Services Sector, advocating for fair policies and support for vulnerable populations.

Introducing a communication strategy with a social media campaign and the launching of a community series.

Follow us!



CAFFSA's Submission to the Attorney-General's Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility

Alternative Diversion Model Discussion Paper Highlights



Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility (MACR)

Child and Family Focus SA expressed concerns over the proposal to set the MACR at 12 years of age (with exceptions for violent crimes - meaning children as young as 10 could still be charged for these). CAFFSA argued that this contradicts United Nations recommendations and documented child development evidence supporting a MACR of 14 years without exceptions. CAFFSA was also concerned that the proposal has a net-widening effect, rather than providing further protections to children and young people.

Trends in the Youth Justice System

Children in the juvenile justice system often come from disadvantaged backgrounds and are more likely to be Aboriginal, have experienced adverse childhood experiences, or have disabilities, which can affect their criminal responsibility threshold and raise social justice concerns with the current proposal.

Disproportionate Impact on Vulnerable Groups

CAFFSA pointed out that the proposed exceptions to the MACR would disproportionately affect girls and Aboriginal children, with a higher proportion of these groups being convicted for violent offenses.

Recommendations

CAFFSA recommended raising the MACR to 14 years with no exceptions, alongside the need for much more detail regarding the Alternative Diversion Model, co-designed with the Aboriginal community, and a comprehensive support system for at-risk children, considering socioeconomic and disability factors, underpinned by prevention and early intervention approaches. Read more [here](#).



A Common Goal

The South Australian Not for Profit Funding Policy Review

CAFFSA's submission highlights concerns regarding funding adequacy and transparency in the South Australian Not for Profit Funding Policy Review – emphasising a discrepancy between indexation rates and rising operational costs faced by non-profit organisations, leading to financial strain.

Read more [here](#).

Submission on Review of Consent Laws in South Australia

CAFFSA submitted a response advocating for changes to consent laws in South Australia. We emphasised the importance of recognising trauma's impact and supported an affirmative consent model. Additionally, we called for expanded jury directions to address misconceptions and highlighted the vulnerability of individuals with a history of childhood maltreatment. Read more [here](#).

CAFFSA's Governance Update

CAFFSA's members have approved changes to our constitution made changes to our constitution.

A quorum at our AGM is now 10% of full members voting, one vote per member, quorum in a non-AGM meeting is 6 full members with no requirement for board members to be present, and future constitutional changes will now require 10% membership to vote on the change. Read more [here](#).

Portable Long Service Leave for the Community Services Sector Discussion Paper

CAFFSA's submission expressed strong overall support for the proposed scheme, emphasising its necessity due to high turnover and challenges, especially for women. We advocate for inclusion of not-for-profit employer contributions to ensure sustainability and fair support for workers and agencies, urging the South Australian Government to prioritise fair funding and support for the sector.

Read more [here](#).



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CHILD PROTECTION AWARDS 2024



Government of South Australia
Department for Child Protection

NAPCAN

PREVENT
PROTECT
& RELEGATE

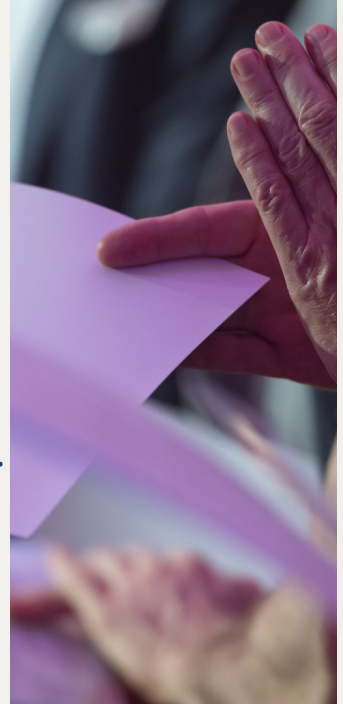


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2024 South Australian Child Protection Awards

Nominations are now open for the **2024 South Australian Child Protection Awards**, honouring those who support children and young people above and beyond. Hosted by the **Department for Child Protection**, in partnership with NAPCAN, nominate deserving individuals or organisations making a difference in child protection and family support.

Learn more and nominate at childprotection.sa.gov.au/awards.
Read more about the awards and categories [here](#).



Annual Foster & Kinship Carer Survey Now Open!

The Annual Foster & Kinship Carer Survey, hosted by **CF&KC-SA**, is calling for feedback from foster and kinship carers across South Australia. This survey aims to understand the needs of carers and guide advocacy efforts for the coming year. Carers are invited to share their thoughts anonymously and stand a chance to win 1 of 5 \$50 Myer/Coles vouchers.

Participate now by visiting [this link](#).

CAFFSA Media & Comms Update

Social Media Campaign

CAFFSA is developing a social media campaign showcasing our sector's vital role in government initiatives as charter champions.

3 Questions

CAFFSA is launching a '3 Questions Series' featuring interviews with industry professionals and individuals with lived experiences.

Stay tuned for updates!



04/07



A National Approach

Mike and other state representatives with the Parliamentary Friends of Grandparents and Kinship Carers including Co-Convenor Senator Dean Smith (3rd from left) and Chair Tracey Roberts (far right).

The plight of informal kinship carers is currently low on the priority list of politicians and the public. To change this a group of sector representatives from five different states, including **Grandcarers SA** CEO Mike Feszczak, held their second meeting with the cross-party Parliamentary Friends of Grandparents and Kinship Carers at Parliament House on Wednesday 20 March.

Included in the discussion:

- Proposed changes to the Carer Recognition Act (Cmwth)
- Double Orphan Pension and the Foster Child Health Care Card
- Development of an Informal Relative Caregiver Statutory Declaration
- Unsupported Child Benefit.

Mike was also received by the Secretary for Social Services to discuss how his Department might help such changes take place.

Further plans are in place for the formalisation of a national network advocating on behalf of informal kinship carers, and events to take place across the country in June 2024.

Grandcarers SA 



LBI Foundation's Upcoming Online Events

Two upcoming online events offering specialist content for foster carers, practitioners, and support workers:

- On the 9th of May, explore 'Trauma and its Impact (Advanced Under the Surface)'—further information and registration can be found [here](#).
- On the 4th of June, discover 'Motivating Others for Intentional Change'—further information and registration available [here](#).

Training Opportunity with International Expert Professor Julie Larrieu!

The Australian Association of Infant Mental Health (SA Committee) is thrilled to announce upcoming training sessions featuring **Professor Julie Larrieu**. The session features two half-day seminars.

In the morning session, delve into "Observing Infant – Caregiver Relationships," followed by an afternoon session on "Partnering with Court Systems – Promoting healing of infants and families following abuse and neglect."

Date: Friday 24th May 2024

Time: 9:00 am - 4:45 pm

Venue: Haven Marina, 6-10 Adelphi Terrace
Glenelg North, SA



Julie Larrieu, Ph.D. is a developmental and clinical psychologist, and a Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioural Sciences at the Tulane University School of Medicine.

For more information and to register, [click here](#). Don't miss this enriching opportunity to learn from an international expert!

Regional Events and Stakeholder Meetings for CREATE and CFKC-SA



17 April - Pt Pirie
Stakeholder Meeting

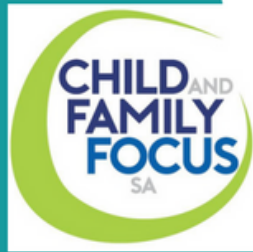
18 April - Kadina
Stakeholder Meeting

18-23 April -
Kadina/Adelaide Metro
Expression of Interest
Sibling Connection A
Guide for Carers and
Caseworkers

**18
APRIL
@ 10AM**

Stakeholder MEETING

CREATE SA, Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers SA and Child & Family Focus SA would like to invite you to a stakeholder meeting on Thursday the 18th April at 10am at Department for Child Protection Kadina at 27 Frances Terrace KADINA



**MORNING TEA
PROVIDED**

To RSVP to the meeting -
scan the QR code or visit
[HTTPS://FORMS.OFFICE.
COM/R/MTGSBQAW97](https://forms.office.com/R/MTGSBQAW97)

