



Foster Care Association of Victoria

Strategic Plan 2011- 2013

Strategic Planning is vital for the FCAV to continue its core work of supporting the foster care system and doing this specifically through strengthening foster families*.

FCAV Vision

To provide information, support and advocacy to carers that ensures they can offer children and young people in their care a healing environment which assists the child or young person to reach their full potential.

FCAV Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the FCAV is to:

- ❖ Advocate for foster carers, their families and the children in their care to ensure all voices are heard;
- ❖ Work in partnership with agencies and the sector to provide an improved foster care system;
- ❖ Provide support and learning for carers directly, through various forums, or in partnership with agencies;
- ❖ Build FCAV intelligence in order to be identified as a recognised and viable authority in the sector;
- ❖ Promote the awareness of foster caring to assist in public understanding of the role and agency recruitment of carers;

Strategic Priorities

In order to achieve this vision, the following six strategic priorities have been established:

ADVOCACY

FCAV to advocate for the development of a service system that provides a healing environment for children/ young people in foster care

1. Work with key agencies and peak bodies in advocating for system improvement and required reform.
2. Identify key themes via Carer Information and Support Service (CISS), regional visits and research and ensure they are progressed within the sector.

SUPPORT SERVICES

FCAV will deliver high quality services to foster carers across the state:

1. Increase membership of FCAV through identifying processes to ensure engagement with all accredited and registered foster carers.
2. Provide up-to-date information, referral and support for foster carers via the CISS.
3. Work closely with agencies to continually improve outcomes for children and young people in foster placements or those transitioning from care.
4. Increase partnerships with agencies across the sector to ensure carers views are being heard in individual cases for children and young people in foster care.

*The term 'foster families' or 'foster carer' refers to Foster Carers, and Foster Carers who have converted to permanent care.

BUILD ON INTELLIGENCE

FCAV to publish information gathered by the Association in a way that impacts sector development:

1. Utilise reporting from the CISS to identify key issues to be addressed.
2. Build carer capability via using "good news" stories and "best practice" information.
3. Undertake major 'research' projects as per information identified from CISS or other sources as appropriate.
4. Increase awareness of the role of foster carers through participation in relevant enquiries/forums.

INFORMATION SHARING

FCAV will ensure accurate and relevant information is shared with carers:

1. Provide information to carers about learning and development opportunities available across the state.
2. Share information across the state, which may include training and conferences and continue to ensure accessibility to regional Victoria.
3. Provide a variety of training models to current and future carers in partnership with local agencies.

PROMOTE FOSTER CARE

FCAV to increase the understanding and awareness of the role of foster carers within Victoria and the role of FCAV within the sector and State:

1. Develop long term marketing/branding/communication strategy.
2. Develop FCAV Communication Guidelines and ensure all FCAV information (info sheets, website, newsletters and communication with CSO) complies.
3. Build public and sector awareness via increased media presence and ongoing relationships.

ORGANISATION EFFICIENCY

For staff to be resourced to achieve intended goals:

1. Establish performance management processes, including detailed performance and development plans for all staff.
2. Gain DGR (Deductible Gift Recipient) status.
3. Identify and access long term funding streams ultimately reducing reliance on DHS.