

## EVIDENCE AND DATA

The FCAV grounds its advocacy in robust evidence to drive meaningful reform, enhance support for carers, and improve outcomes for children and young people in care. In addition to generating its own research and data, FCAV stays informed on the latest sector research to ensure that the carer voice is amplified and that lived experience informs policy.

Visit the FCAV Data and Research Library for a comprehensive collection of reports, statistical analyses, and policy papers that support FCAV's advocacy.

## SETTING THE AGENDA

The FCAV's advocacy priorities are directly informed by the voices of foster carers across Victoria. Through ongoing consultation, surveys, and engagement with our members, the FCAV identifies the key issues carers face and uses this evidence to shape its advocacy agenda.

By centring lived experience, the FCAV ensures that the priorities it pursues reflect the priorities of its members, the real challenges and needs of those providing care. This approach strengthens its ability to advocate for meaningful policy change, improved support, and a more sustainable foster care system.

[WWW.FCAV.ORG.AU/ADVOCACY](http://WWW.FCAV.ORG.AU/ADVOCACY)

## THE FCAV ADVOCACY PLATFORM

At the core of everything the FCAV does is the belief that well-supported, informed, and respected carers are best placed to provide stable, nurturing care to children and young people who have experienced trauma.

The FCAV advocacy platform is more than policy proposals — it reflects the real experiences of foster carers across Victoria, whose everyday lives must shape meaningful and targeted reform.

## THE FCAV MISSION AND PURPOSE

As the peak body for foster care, the FCAV's mission is to provide support, advocacy and better outcomes for foster carers and the children and young people in their care.

The FCAV's purpose for over 30 years is providing services and advocating for a future where all foster carers are supported, respected and empowered in their caring role. As the peak body this purpose is set because ensuring volunteer carers are supported and resilient is intrinsically linked to best outcomes for the children and young people in their care.

# FCAV ADVOCACY 2025



Championing the rights, recognition, and support for all foster carers for better outcomes for the children and young people in their care across Victoria.

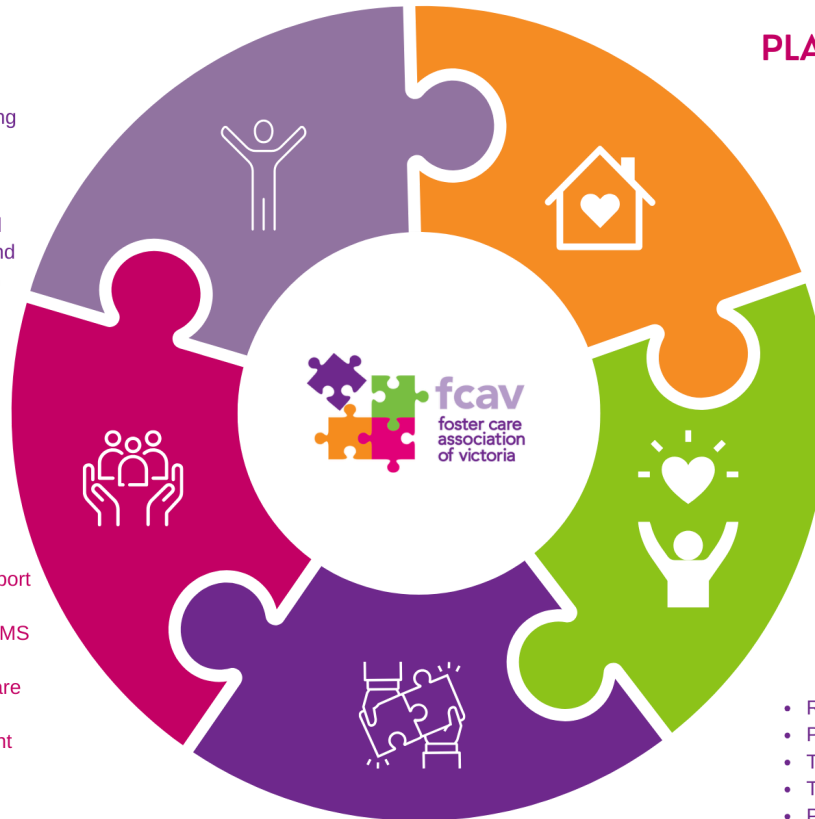
# FOSTER CARE SUPPORT NEEDS

## CARERS

Recognising and upholding the rights and needs of carers with respect to procedural fairness and recognition of carers' vital role in the care system and in the lives of the children and young people in their care.

## RETENTION & WELLBEING

- Adequate financial support
- Counselling and advice
- Transparent and fair CIMS processes
- Valued role in child's care team and the sector
- Carer's heard in relevant decision making
- Access to respite
- Legal support
- Peer Support Network



## PLACEMENT NEEDS

- Increased Care Allowance.
- Care Allowance indexed to inflation each year.
- Adequate client expenses funding.
- Care and cultural support plans.
- Full placement information
- Training and development at all levels of experience.
- Early medical assessment and access.
- Education/school support.
- Effective care team inclusion, respect and communication.
- Child's documentation including passports.
- Informed about financial supports and exemptions.

## LIFE NEEDS

- Respect in the system
- Peer Support
- Transparent authorisations
- Transport system review
- Permissions to travel
- Counselling and advice
- Access to respite
- Considered in system policy and practice.

## SECTOR COLLABORATION

- Facilitating carer participation in key advisory groups and working groups.
- Partnering with agencies and ACCOs on carer support improvements and aligned advocacy.
- Leverage partnerships with sector peak bodies, commissions and councils.
- Working with sector peak bodies and agencies facilitate carer data.

## PUBLIC CAMPAIGNS AND COMMUNITY AWARENESS

- Leading awareness campaigns such as the Care Allowance campaign.
- Partnering with media to spotlight foster care issues.
- Hosting the sector wide annual Foster Care Week campaign.

## ENGAGING GOVERNMENT

- Regular meetings with Ministers, MPs, and departmental leaders.
- Submissions to state budget processes and policy reviews.
- Launch of the Parliamentary Friends of the FCAV.

## AMPLIFYING THE CARER VOICE

The FCAV amplifies the carer voice and engages our carer membership in direct action through:

- Hosting forums, consultations, and events with carers across Victoria.
- Mobilising carers to participate in advocacy actions.
- Conducting statewide Carer Census and reporting on data.
- Identifying systemic issues through one-on-one carer support.
- Sharing carer stories and survey data in reports, media, and meetings.
- Facilitating direct carer engagement with decision-makers.
- Providing policy recommendations based on carer lived experience.

### Carer Life Needs

Caring is a profound, life-changing commitment that requires deeper recognition and support.

### Placement Needs

Timely, accurate information and access to resources.

### Financial Needs

The current financial supports do not reflect the true cost of care.

### Respect and Wellbeing

Critical to sustaining this complex volunteer role and retaining carers long-term.