

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
2017–18



# Contents

<u>Celebrating success</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>President Report</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Carer Information and Support Service Report</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Treasurer Report</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Carer KaFÉ</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Appreciation</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Thank you</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Acknowledgement</u>	<u>15</u>

## Celebrating success

A year in review for the Foster Care Association of Victoria, the peak body representing the needs and interests of Victoria's foster carers.

Please find the full Annual Report 2018, including financials at [www.fcav.org.au](http://www.fcav.org.au)

# President Report

Welcome to the Foster Care Association of Victoria's (FCAV) Annual Report for 2017/18. It has, once again, been a year of remarkable progress and achievement.

One of our proudest moments was the launch of our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), driven by board member Nicole Misurelli with the support of Daryl Sloan and the entire FCAV team. The action points within the RAP will strengthen our support for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander colleagues, carers and community to advance their wellbeing and the future for children and young people experiencing care services. Pleasingly, we have already achieved 24 of the 45 action points.

Last year's establishment of Carer KaFÉ as the state-wide training body for foster and kinship carers is another great success story of the sector and we were thrilled to see its funding extended further. FCAV will continue to support Carer KaFÉ, which has already delivered more than 300 training sessions, providing quality, regular learning and development opportunities for carers across the state.

Raising awareness of issues affecting foster carers is a key pillar for FCAV and this year we have welcomed the chance to collaborate with the Children's Commissioner on a systemic inquiry into experiences of children and young people in care. We will ensure foster carer voices are heard as part of the inquiry due to the important role they play in the overall experiences of those often vulnerable children in their keeping.

Finally, I would like to thank CEO Katie Hooper and her talented team at FCAV for their commitment and passion for caring and supporting foster carers in Victoria. They have achieved so much this year despite being a small team.

Job well done.

**Toni Hetherington**  
President



Raising awareness of issues affecting foster carers is a key pillar for FCAV...

# Carer Information and Support Service Report

The last year has been a very dynamic period for the home-based care sector. While the past 12 months has seen the introduction of the new allegations of abuse in care process, the Client Incident Management (CIMS) model, the Reportable Conduct Scheme and the Transitioning of Aboriginal children to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs), it has also been an exciting time for the Carer Information and Support Service (CISS) to broaden the support offered to foster carers and foster care agencies.

The CISS team responded to and closed 648 foster care enquiries, delivering 1,073 hours of service. In addition, the CISS team responded to and closed 90 enquiries relating to kinship and other, delivering another 87 hours of service. While we continued to support carers through the hotline, we also used new mediums including hosting our first evening webinars on the topics 'Self-care' and 'Grief & Loss'.

The webinars were well received and gave carers an opportunity to reach out after hours, for extra support.

FCAV was pleased to welcome 489 full members and 19 associate members who joined in the past year, bringing our total membership to 5,160.

FCAV hosted the Shine a Light National Foster and Kinship Care Conference in mid-September 2017 attended by 411 foster and kinship carers. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive due to the high standard of speakers and the networking opportunities for so many carers to come together over the two days.

Another great year.

**Tessa Hughes**

Team Leader



...hosting our first evening webinars on the topics 'Self-care' and 'Grief & Loss'.

# Treasurer Report

The Foster Care Association of Victoria has had another year of impressive growth. Our income over doubled (219%), as did our expenditure (214%).

This growth is due to two core activities during the 2017–18 financial year: the development of Carer KaFÉ and the National Kinship and Foster Care Conference 2017 to shine a light on foster care.

This year we reported an operating net loss of \$1,150. This is a 0.05% loss as a proportion of our pre-expenditure, gross profit of \$2.16 million. The total financial year loss of \$1,150 is also significantly less than the \$29,829 loss budgeted for. Such close financial outcomes illustrate the hard work that goes into making the FCAV the responsive, supportive organisation that it is.

Donations received from our supporters and the community remained at an impressive \$15,000. Thank you to everyone who supports us through their kind financial donations.

A cash balance at the end of June 2018 of \$402,232 was held across a term deposit and bank account. This is balanced against \$154,171 of funds received in advance for Carer KaFÉ.

Having the opportunity to work as Treasurer for FCAV was a privilege. I would like to extend my thanks to the CEO, finance sub-committee, board of directors, FCAV staff and our bookkeeper for all of their excellent work.

**Eleanor Toulmin**  
Treasurer



Thank you to everyone who supports us through their kind financial donations.

# Carer KaFÉ

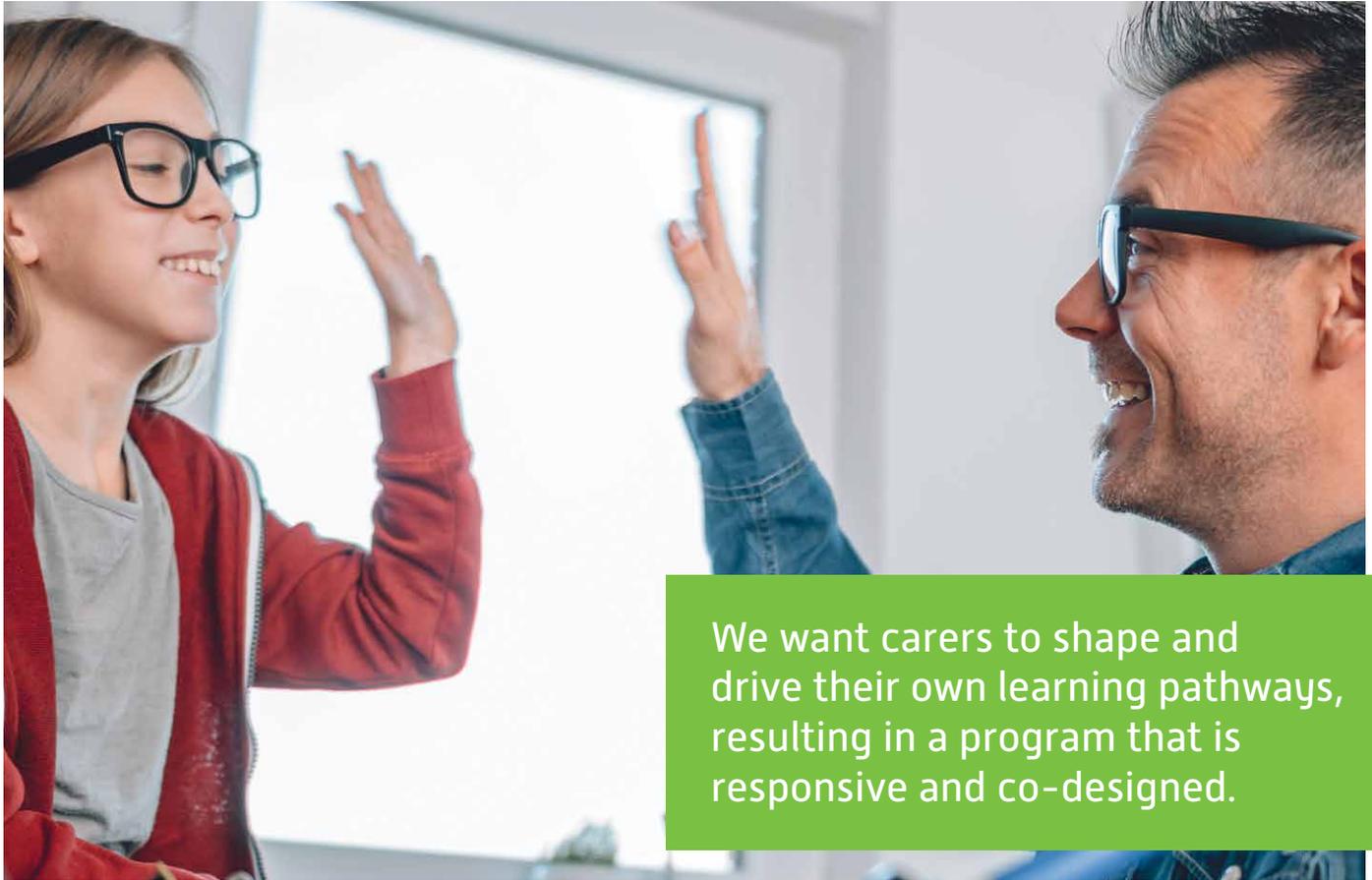
## State wide Kinship and Foster Care Education

Carer KaFÉ provides coordinated learning options for kinship and foster carers across Victoria. This framework centres on the kinship carer experience, the foster carer experience, caring for Aboriginal children, parenting skills and specialist topics.

Some highlights to date include:

- 300+ face-to-face training sessions have been funded and run, reaching over 2,700 carers
- Two online learning experiences have been trialled with over 350 carers taking part
- A number of carer camps have been run with big success, including YMCA kinship care camps, an FCAV wellbeing camp and a VACCA cultural camp
- We've worked with 20 different training providers with specialist expertise in key topics
- We've engaged multiple agencies and child care contacts who have hosted training sessions in each DHHS division across the State
- Four foster carers and three kinship carers were supported by Carer KaFÉ to engage in accredited training options relating to their caring role
- The Carer KaFÉ Aboriginal Strategy was developed and the project team have been working with organisations such as VACCHO, VACCA and SNAICC to develop culturally safe training and approaches for Aboriginal carers and carers of Aboriginal children
- Supporting carers to attend conferences, including the National Kinship and Foster Care Conference, CREATE conference and SNAICC conference

The next phase of the program will see Carer KaFÉ growing in profile and implementing the recommendations of a recent systems review, including improved automation, evaluation and communications. The program will also be integrating the thoughts and lived experiences of carers more directly. We want carers to shape and drive their own learning pathways, resulting in a program that is responsive and co-designed.



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# Appreciation

We appreciate all that carers do and here are the small ways we have been able to show this.

During the 2017/18 year FCAV prizes to our members included:

- Movie tickets for 36 families
- Jim's group vouchers for 9 families
- Zoo tickets for 50 families
- Grand Prix Tickets
- Books and artworks
- NAIDOC Week cultural prizes
- Book of Mormon Tickets 150 tickets to World Festival of Magic, Razzamatazz & Circus Quirkus shows, thanks to the generosity of The Holland Foundation.

# Thank you to our...

## Supporters

Australian Quilters Association – regular quilt donations | Cummins – regular corporate volunteers | Eddie’s backpacks | NAB – Corporate and professional volunteers | Parade College Bundoora – Digby Morrell – students assist with ushering and handing out | Penleigh and Essendon Grammar – Darrell Cruse | The Holland Foundation

## Community Service Organisations subscribers

Anchor Foster Care | Anglicare Victoria | Baptcare Family Services | Barwon Child Youth & Family | Berry Street | Brophy Family & Youth Services Inc | Child and Family Services | Gippsland & East Gippsland Aboriginal Cooperative | Key Assets | Life Without Barriers | MacKillop Family Services | Mallee Accommodation & Support Program | Mallee District Aboriginal Services | Mallee Family Care | OzChild | Quantum Support Services Inc | Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-Op | Salvocare Eastern | Salvation Army – Westcare | Uniting | Upper Murray Family Care | Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency

## Board of Directors

Toni Hetherington – elected President | Tori Smith – elected Vice President | Mohamed ElMasri – elected Secretary (outgoing) | Eleanor Toulmin – elected Treasurer (outgoing) | Zahin Ali | Roger Burton – (outgoing) | Malcolm McLeod | Nicole Misurelli | Megan Sadler | Daryl Sloan



# Acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge that we work on the traditional land of the Kulin Nation and we acknowledge the Wurundjeri people who are the custodians of this land. We pay respects to community members and elders past and present.



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