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### FCAV WELCOMES FUNDING FOR THERAPEUTIC CARE

The Foster Care Association of Victoria has welcomed the announcement of \$15.6 million of investment in the provision of therapeutic home-based care places.

“We are always happy to see extra money flow into the foster care system,” said Josh Fergeus, Acting Chief Executive Officer of the FCAV. “The FCAV has a strong track record of supporting the **expansion of therapeutic care**. Strong therapeutic support ensures that foster care placements have the best possible chance of success.”

Over **6,500 children** are in out-of-home care across Victoria on any given night, and volunteer foster carers care for thousands each year. Worryingly, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found that over 600 **foster carers left the system** during the 2012-13 financial year, an ongoing trend in recent years.

“The **availability of safe, nurturing foster homes** is critical for the functioning of Victoria’s child protection system,” said Mr Fergeus. “We believe that every foster care placement should have therapeutic support. While there is a long way to go, we are encouraged to see the Government taking some action.”

The FCAV are **currently developing a scorecard** which will be issued to all Victorian foster carers prior to the State Election. This scorecard will rate the responses of the major parties to the Association’s recently released **log of claims**, which calls for five key improvements to the foster care system.

“While this week’s announcement is good news, we contend that if the **five election issues** we are raising with the government and opposition parties are not urgently addressed, foster care will not be available as an option for vulnerable children in the future,” said Mr Fergeus.

“We hope that Victoria’s politicians will gather with us to support this series of measures which will **create meaningful change** in the way we provide foster care in Victoria.”

#### For more information on the **SAVE FOSTER CARE** campaign:

Josh Fergeus  
Acting Chief Executive Officer  
Foster Care Association of Victoria  
03 9416 4292  
0432 978 671