

MEDIA RELEASE

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State Budget increases funding for foster care

The Foster Care Association of Victoria (FCAV) has welcomed the Victorian Government's commitment to increase funding for out-of-home care.

The FCAV applaud any increase in resourcing to support the vital work that foster carers perform, and are pleased to see the success of therapeutic foster care pilot programs recognised with additional investment.

While welcoming this announcement, FCAV President Josh Fergeus has stated that "we eagerly await clarification of whether the additional 83 placements are an expansion of the successful Circle Program, or another locally untested model of therapeutic foster care".

Since commencing in 2007, the Circle Program has been found to enhance stability of foster placements, significantly improve developmental gains for foster children, increase rates of reunification with families, improve processes and outcomes for carers, and increase levels of carer retention and wellbeing.

Mr Fergeus continued to say that "the FCAV recommend that the core components of The Circle Program be rolled out state-wide, as it has demonstrated its capacity to effectively meet the needs of Victoria's vulnerable children and young people, while supporting the foster carers that perform the central role in any care team".

"The FCAV is hopeful that therapeutic foster care can be expanded across the entire sector, but welcome this increased financial allocation as an interim measure".

The Association is eager for the release of further details, including clarification of whether the increased resources represents genuinely new investment.

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