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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Foster care the best alternative to “Broken Homes”**

The Foster Care Association today calls for improvements to Victoria’s Out of Home Care sector. The Four Corner’s episode aired on ABC on Monday night was yet further exposure of the state’s residential care facilities; that they are unsafe and unsuitable housing for vulnerable young people. Placement in safe, family homes with a foster carer is the best alternative for children and young people who cannot live with their family.

Executive Officer, Katie Hooper, stated that “A strong, well-resourced home-based care system provides children and young people with a far better standard of care than any residential care unit can, but the Victorian Government has to continue to invest in improving the current foster care system. A good foster carer is one of the most valuable assets in our community and should be recognised as such. We need to support our foster carers in their efforts to provide a safe, nurturing environment for a vulnerable child while they can’t live at home with their family.

We need to train carers, fund carers and ensure they are in a position to provide optimal care to so that these kids can regain a sense of security in their lives.” Ms. Hooper said today.

#### **FCAV advocates that:**

**<https://www.fcav.org.au/advocating-change/advocating-change>**

1. The current rates of Carer Allowance increase >\$88 a week to reach parity with other states.
2. Improved accessibility to therapeutic guidance and support for all carers
3. The State Government champion a culture of respect for the place and role of our foster carers, caring for our most vulnerable children.

“As the peak body representing foster carers in Victoria, the FCAV will continue challenging state government and the sector to recognise and value our foster carers, calling for improvements to the system for young people and children in Out of Home Care ” Ms. Hooper concluded.

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