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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Foster Carers Call for Improvements in Wake of Commissioner's Report**

The Foster Care Association of Victoria (FCAV) today called for major improvements to Victoria's Out of Home Care sector following the release of a report into residential care facilities by the Commission for Children and Young People.

Executive Officer, Katie Hooper, stated that Victoria's foster carers could provide children and young people with a far better standard of care than that described in the Commissioner's report if the Victorian Government continues to invest further funds into improving the current foster care system.

" While FCAV has welcomed the funding improvements already made by the Victorian Government and are delighted that the Minister has today committed to implementing all of the report's recommendations, the Victorian foster care system needs action and a well-resourced three year strategy to ensure carers are fully supported to provide appropriate care to some of Victoria's most disadvantaged children and young people" Ms. Hooper said today.

**FCAV advocates that:**

- The current rates of Carer Allowance are increased to fully meet the needs of children and young people in the state's care and that the processes in assessing and approving this allowance and other expenditure on children's needs are more easily accessible to carers;
- That the Victorian Government invests in the development and implementation of a comprehensive Carer training framework as a priority to assist the retention of carers throughout Victoria; and
- Improved accessibility to therapeutic guidance and support for all Carers to enable successful ongoing placements of children and young people in foster care rather than in the presently dysfunctional residential care system.

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

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