

Future Foster Care?

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Ahead of the State election on 24th November 2018, the FCAV asks Victoria to:

Commit to increase the **basic carer allowance** by \$70 per week to cover foster carers' out of pocket expenses whilst they care for our state's most vulnerable children and young people. Remove the two lowest levels of carer allowance, to bring the basic rate in Victoria to parity with other states.

Increase and improve access to the **expense reimbursement fund** so that foster carers can provide the medical, therapeutic, respite, sports, school uniforms and additional travel needs for children and young people in care.

Tri-partisan support achieved!

Extend care **from 18 until the age of 21** for young people in care services in this state.

Put in place a fully funded agency **respite care program** state wide to provide alternative, trusted adults to support the children and young people in care and to provide respite for their long term carers.

Implement a **professional foster care** model in addition to the current volunteer carer system, which provides an opportunity for carers to join a waged carer system, remunerated on the basis of skills, qualifications and experience to care for our state's most complex placements and keeping vulnerable children and young people out of residential care.

Long-term funding to ensure Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) foster carers, the Victorian Aboriginal Controlled Service Sector and all those caring for ATSI children and young people are (i) supported to successfully **implement the intentions** of self-determination under section 18 and (ii) to shape a rich and learned community of carers who provide culturally safe and informed care for ATSI children and young people.



The Foster Care Association of Victoria operates on the lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respect to their Elders, past and present, and to all the traditional custodians of land throughout Victoria.

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