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MEDIA RELEASE



FCAV involvement in new Ministerial Advisory Committee for Children in Out of Home Care

The Minister for Families and Children, Hon. Jenny Mikakos MP has convened a Ministerial Advisory Committee for Children in Out of Home Care which will meet over a two year period until February 2017.

FCAV is delighted to be representing the voice of foster carers on this committee. Along with the injection of the Government investment of \$1.5 million to recruit and retain more foster carers, announced last month, we hope this committee will develop strategies to improve the levels of support foster carers currently work within for the day to day care and welfare of the young people and children in their homes.

"People take on the role of foster caring to ensure that vulnerable children have loving homes where they can heal from traumatic events. We need a system around them to fully support their good work. Carers need to be resourced both financially and with therapeutic support, to assist the children and young people in their care." *Katie Hooper, Chief Executive Officer, FCAV*

"As the peak body for foster carers in Victoria the FCAV invites the consultative process and will be challenging the Minister and other representatives to recognise and value of the voice of carers." *Katie Hooper, Chief Executive Officer, FCAV*

Minister Mikakos quotes from 17.2.15

"Foster carers are heroes and we deeply value the work that they do. This Government is committed to making sure we attract and keep the best carers we can, and support them to remain as foster carers long-term."

"The out of home care system requires immediate attention with a view to long term structural change to ensure better outcomes for children and young people."

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