



MEDIA RELEASE

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OUT OF HOME CARE CHANGES MUST BE RESOURCED

On any given night there are over **6,500 children** living in out-of-home care in Victoria.

Victoria's peak body for foster carers, the **Foster Care Association of Victoria**, welcome the introduction of the Children, Youth and Families Amendment (Permanent Care and Other Matters) Bill into state Parliament this week. The Government has stated that the changes to rules around permanent care orders contained in the Bill will provide greater certainty for children.

"We have consistently advocated for tighter planning for children coming into care," said Katie Hooper, Chief Executive Officer of the FCAV. "We want a more responsive system which ensures stability for children in care, and this seems to be the intention of this Bill."

If children cannot return home from foster care, the FCAV advocate for children to be permanently placed with a family as soon as practicable.

"It's extremely important that we ensure children aren't drifting through the system with no permanent home in sight. Children have a right to a secure home life which values their identity, culture, and connection to birth family, including their siblings."

"Despite this Bill moving us in the right direction, it's clear that legislative change alone is not the solution," said Ms Hooper. "Inadequate resourcing of the out of home care system is a perennial problem, and without greater financial and therapeutic supports it will remain extremely challenging to find appropriate carers for children in need."

For further information or interviews:

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