



**Supporting Care.  
Supporting Childhoods.** 

This National Volunteer Week 18 - 24 May 2020 we are calling for donations to continue providing quality support for volunteer foster carer families across the state.

[www.fcav.org.au/support-us](http://www.fcav.org.au/support-us)

Tuesday 19 May 2020

## Media Release

### Foster Carers Celebrated this National Volunteer Week

Our foster care volunteers have never been more important, their role has never been more difficult in these challenging times.

The compounding effects of recent bushfires in parts of Victoria and COVID-19 restrictions, disproportionately impacts children and teenagers in care and their connections with peers, families, schools, culture and kin. The FCAV is focussing resources to assist their carers, who face the extra challenges that this crisis presents.

The FCAV's support and advocacy has never been more in demand. Since March 2020, the FCAV responded to 135 foster care enquiries, delivering nearly 200 hours of one to one support. As well as the everyday concerns of carers, 22% of calls related to navigating access with family online and the mental health fallout for children in care during Stage 3 restrictions.

As a small not-for-profit organisation we are stretching every dollar to provide the resources and expertise carers need to bring to bear the learning, knowledge, wellbeing and optimism they in turn can impart to the children in their care.

"Guidance for carers through the FCAV hotline has never been more important than now as our carers try to provide a stable foundation for their children in out-of-home-care in a time of high anxiety and change," Ms Hauge said.

"Dealing with vulnerable children who have experienced trauma requires a sensitive and considered approach that will vary for every child and their circumstances.

"Being able to talk to qualified staff about their situation and available supports gives carers the confidence and enthusiasm to carry on for the benefit of the child."

"We enjoy being foster carers, the hard bit is not caring for the children themselves, but the difficulty in trying to get their medical and support needs met. The FCAV has been invaluable to us as we navigate the ways to get that support." Megan Sadlier, foster carer, Yarra Glen.

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