

WINTER ADDITION  
2008



PO BOX 171 GREENACRES SA 5086

1800 732 272

website: [cfc-sa.org.au](http://cfc-sa.org.au)

Winter is upon us already! A lot has happened since our last edition in relation to carers. Hopefully you have received your carer ID cards by now. I am sure they will make a difference.

Many carers have been affected by the realignment of Families SA. I'm sure some of us who have had long acquaintances (spanning decades!!) feel a loss as some offices have closed. With this change if you are left without a worker for a time you can contact a duty officer at your new assigned office. Take the time to make yourself known at your new office by attending Partnership or Working with carers groups if possible. Speak up to the new Liaison officer if you have concerns.

A lot has happened to bring 'caring' into focus recently via the Mullighan enquiry and the new Standards of Alternative Care document. There have been many media releases and Government statements. Currently in Canberra there is a National Framework consultation based around protecting Australia's Children. CFC has two carers who will be attending the Consultation process in July.

Thank you for all you do.

The links for these documents are:

Standards of Alternative Care:

[www.families.sa.gov.au/alternativecarestandards](http://www.families.sa.gov.au/alternativecarestandards)

Key Recommendations made by Former Supreme Court Judge Mullighan:

[www.service.sa.gov.au/ContentPage/sagov/mullighaninquiry](http://www.service.sa.gov.au/ContentPage/sagov/mullighaninquiry)

## ADVANCED NOTICE.....

### **CFC Family Fun Day at the ZOO**

**DATE: Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November**

**TIME: 10:00am**

**ENTER: VIA Front Gate**

**To be eligible you need to make sure you are a member of CFC by: registering on the website or Leaving a message on the 1800 number. Country carers please consider attending.**



#### **Introducing Gayle Bartlett.**

Gayle was appointed the new Foster Care Liaison Officer. Gayle has 20 years experience with Families SA.

Gayle will be of great benefit to CFC & carers

Her phone number is: 08 8124 4118



**Know anyone who would like to find out more about fostering...**

## Information Sessions for prospective foster carers



**Know someone  
who is thinking  
about fostering?**

Foster Carer Recruitment Desk, Families SA  
1800 210 145

### **Thursday 24 July, Gawler**

Gawler Sports & Community Centre, Nixon Terrace, Gawler

### **Wednesday 6 August Marion**

Club Marion Function Centre, Sturt Road  
(Opposite Marion Council)

**All sessions  
6:30-8:30 pm**

### **Thursday 21 August, Fullarton**

Fullarton Park Community Centre, 411 Fullarton Road

### **Thursday 18 September, Gawler**

Gawler Sports & Community Centre, Nixon Terrace, Gawler

### **Thursday 25 September, Fullarton**

Fullarton Park Community Centre, 411 Fullarton Road

### **Thursday 9 October, Mawson Lakes**

Mawson Centre, 2-8 Main Street, Mawson Lakes  
(Opposite Mawson Lakes Hotel)

### **Thursday 16 October, Noarlunga**

Noarlunga Leisure Centre, David Witton Drive  
(Between the Cinema and the Aquatic Centre)

### **Thursday 23 October, Fullarton**

Fullarton Park Community Centre, 411 Fullarton Road

### **Thursday 27 November, Fullarton**

Fullarton Park Community Centre, 411 Fullarton Road



Government of South Australia  
Department for Families  
and Communities

## **A Message from Amanda Waye CFC link for carers in the South East**

Firstly we would like to thank the Minister for 'promises kept' back in January when it was stated that there would be more funding provided to carers. We know we are being heard and changes are happening.

Over the past 6 wks Anglican Community Care along with Baptist Community Services in the South East have been working together on a recruitment drive to gain more Carers. It has been a very successful campaign with 3 community information sessions and media advertising. BCS are recruiting for a "In house model" of caring, where couples will go into a home specifically set up for the young person, on a rotational basis with one other couple. They would have a team of support around them. This is a different model than the normal foster care set up but in my opinion could be very good option. It was decided to combine all our resources and work together in a recruitment strategy as we felt it would be less confusing for those who attended the information sessions. The sessions consisted of an ACC worker, a worker from Families SA and a worker from BCS, each having 5 minutes to explain what they do. A longer time slot was allowed for 2 Foster parents to speak about their experiences and answer questions from the floor. A feedback questionnaire nominated this part of the sessions as the most interesting. Overall it was a very successful campaign with over 25 families showing an interest in becoming carers, so even if half of them follow up this will greatly relieve the pressure on foster families and services in the South East.

Amanda



## ANGEL PACKS

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints contacted Families SA and asked if they could put together packs for children who are to be placed with Foster Carers. As Carers we know all too well how children come to our home with little or without personal belongings. Over a period of 9 months the church put together 921 - what they called "Angel Packs." Inside a pillow case that was made into a bag they placed pyjamas, a blanket, toothbrush and toothpaste, a soft toy, another toy, pencils and a colouring in book. Many of the blankets were hand-made. The goal was to make up 1000 bags but further support is needed from the community. The packs were distributed to Families SA District Centres on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

**We really appreciate the support from the community and different church organisations that sincerely try to make a difference for the children.**

Regards Shirley Toker

## TRAINING

We would like to know what training you as carers would benefit from. Connecting Foster Carers is currently looking at providing some dynamic training sessions that would be of best value to us as carers. Increasing our skills and knowledge while being with other carers is of great benefit. Please let us know if there is something specific that you would like. Of course this is for rural and metropolitan carers.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE.....

### CONNECTING FOSTER CARERS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**WHERE:** ST CUTHBERTS  
CHURCH HALL

**LOCATION:** corner BALVILLE ST &  
PROSPECT RD  
Map 106 D12

**WHEN:** MONDAY 1<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2008

**TIME:** 7:00pm

### **SUPPER PROVIDED**

We would like to thank the current board who have worked so hard this year. Much has been achieved.

Please take the opportunity to come to the AGM and contribute to the Connecting Foster Carer's Moto

*Together we can  
make a difference*



## FOSTERING THEIR CULTURE

At CFC we have received 200 copies of a brilliant booklet recently released by Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care.

### THE AIM:

Is to assist non-Indigenous foster carers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to keep the children connected with their community and culture. This resource will:

- Focus on the cultural support needs of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children
- Broaden recognition of the importance of culture and identity and well being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care.
- Support carers in their role and assist in the establishment of good practice for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander foster care arrangements.

**FOR YOUR FREE COPY  
CONTACT OUR WEBSITE OR  
1800 PHONE NUMBER**



## Dame Roma Mitchell Trust Fund

Established in 2003 by the State Government and the South Australian Council of Social Service (SACOSS) to make grants available to children and young people who are or have been under the guardianship of the Minister in SA.

Those with other long-term experience in the South Australian care system may also be eligible. Applicants must be under 30 years of age, at the closing date of the round.

Currently there are 2 rounds each year, in February and September. The closing date for the next round is the 30 September.

In the 2007/08 financial year the Trust Fund distributed \$255,000 to 131 children and young people. The Trust Fund provides grants to assist the applicant

- To achieve personal goals
- To contribute to their health and wellbeing
- Provide development opportunities

**For further information or to apply, visit the website [www.dfc.sa.gov.au/drmtf](http://www.dfc.sa.gov.au/drmtf) or phone (08) 8415 4236**

Shirley Toker is Connecting Foster Carers representative on the Dame Roma Mitchell Trust Board.

This scheme has been of great benefit to many a young adult to help achieve their dreams

