

# Support and Advocacy for Foster Families



The Foster Care Association (FCAWA) is a non-government, not for profit agency funded by the Department of Communities, Child Protection & Family Support.

FCAWA was formed in 1979 to give a voice to and represent the views of foster families to the then Department of Community Welfare. With support from Departmental staff, a steering committee was formed, and a Constitution developed.

FCAWA represents all foster families in both the metropolitan and country areas, with services designed to meet their needs. The day-to-day services and activities of FCAWA, are carried out in the interests of all children in foster care throughout Western Australia.

A Board of members is elected to oversee the functions of FCAWA. An Annual General Meeting is held annually and members of the Association can nominate to be elected to the Board.

## OUR MISSION

The Foster Care Association delivers services to foster families that aims to enhance their ability to respond to the challenge of fostering. FCAWA strives to promote the interests of foster care with all care agencies of Western Australia.

## GOALS

**A Voice For All Foster Families** - FCAWA strives to provide a voice for foster families both as individual's and as a collective.

**Support For All Foster Families** - FCAWA seeks to support all foster families through their journey.

**Respectful Relationships** - FCAWA promotes honest, professional and culturally appropriate relationships with all parties involved in the foster care system.

**Unite and Grow** - FCAWA works to unite and provide networking, support and learning opportunities for all foster families.

**Enhance and Inform** - FCAWA strives to enhance and inform the fostering system and ultimately the care outcomes for all children in care.

## OBJECTIVES

- To provide ongoing professional support and advocacy to foster families throughout Western Australia.
- To provide networking and learning opportunities for all foster families.
- To provide relevant culturally responsive support to all foster families.
- To grow, strengthen and maintain relationships with all foster families and key stakeholders.
- To provide a collective voice on behalf of foster families.
- To promote a public awareness of fostering in Western Australia.

## SERVICES OF THE ASSOCIATION

Our services include:

- A telephone support and advocacy service.
- Support at meetings if you would like someone from the Foster Care Association to attend with you.
- Foster families will be provided with information about foster care, accessing appropriate services and, where required, individual advocacy to ensure that their issues are heard and addressed.

## ACCESS TO SERVICES

FCAWA's services are accessible to all foster families regardless of whether or not they are a member of our Association. However, being a member of FCAWA does have its benefits.

Our membership programme strives to strengthen foster families and enhance the well-being of the children in their care. We welcome all new members and invite all foster & kinship carers interested in making a difference to the lives of children and young people in care, to join our special community. Carers will be provided with the opportunity to:

- Connect with other foster & kinship carers.
- Receive invitations to member-only events.
- Keep up-to-date with information pertaining to foster care and child protection.
- Be notified of policy developments and research.
- Access food and grocery items through Foodbank

## MEMBERSHIP FEES

Our current Membership fees are:

- \$10.00 for a single parent foster family.
- \$20.00 for two adult foster parents in a foster family.
- \$10.00 per person, for those interested in foster care.

Please refer to our website for up to date membership information at [www.fcawa.com.au](http://www.fcawa.com.au).