



Kinship Carers Week Acknowledged in Parliament

From Hansard¹: Victorian Legislative Assembly, 10 September 2019
'Members' Statements'

FOSTER AND KINSHIP CARERS WEEK

Mr DONNELLAN (Narre Warren North—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers) (13:28): This week is Foster Care Week and Kinship Carers Week. Foster carers and kinship carers love and care for some of Victoria's most vulnerable children and young people. They are the unsung heroes in our community. The caring role they take on is critical, and without carers our current children and family services system could not exist. Carers are faced with many challenging situations like navigating courts, child protection, family relationships and family visits.

They navigate all of this while they are providing 24-hour support for the child or young person in their care, helping them heal from trauma and build positive relationships. We have done much work in this space to improve our support for carers, but we know that there is a lot more to do.

We are continuing our investment in the Fostering Connections campaign run through the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare. The service includes advertising to look for further foster carers, an online information portal and a dedicated phone line and access to support services. We also introduced the Carer Kafe program for training and support for new carers. Over 3800 carers have attended the sessions.

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This week I was very fortunate to join both Anne McLeish from Kinship Carers Victoria and Sam Hague from the Foster Care Association of Victoria to meet many beautiful, caring, loving carers who do such a marvellous job for our community. I just want to say how lucky and fortunate we are to have people with such big hearts in our community.

KINSHIP CARERS WEEK

Ms COUZENS (Geelong) (13:43): This week is Kinship Carers Week, which is an opportunity to celebrate the work carers do. Kinship carers provide care to over 70 per cent of Victorian children in out-of-home care, and they come from all socio-economic and cultural circumstances and backgrounds. I want to acknowledge and thank all of those kinship carers across Victoria—and a special shout-out to those in Geelong. Thank you for your commitment and the vital work that you do in our community.

¹ Hansard is the official record of Parliament proceedings, named after T.C. Hansard, who began publishing reports of British parliamentary debates in 1829.