



FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Rob Martin – CEO, Child and Family Focus SA

I am pleased to offer this annual report as an overview of the work completed in 2017/2018 and am again very grateful to the CAFFSA Board for their continued encouragement and support this last twelve months.

With the continuation of high-level child protection sector reform in South Australia, the service delivery landscape has been one that appears to be marked by uncertainty and to a degree, trepidation. It has been clear to me over the last year that the role that CAFFSA plays has become increasingly important in providing a sense of strong, united and collective advocacy around the concerns of the sector.

The continuing importance of strong, independent sector advocacy that informs and shapes the current and future policy and practice landscape of child protection has continued to be recognized by government. More and more, CAFFSA is being called to provide advice and feedback to both the Department for Child Protection and the Department of Premier and Cabinet on the implications of legislative and policy reform that impact on the way in which service providers function at the front line and provide services to vulnerable children, young people and their families.

The Family Matters Campaign in South Australia has seen us support a much larger and more community oriented Working Group that now has a range of highly respected Elders, community members and community advocates who are committed to pursuing the principles and objectives of the national Family Matters Roadmap. Whilst the Working Group has had to face a number of challenges in gaining further traction as an action oriented working group who is actively called upon by government to progress joint priorities, it has remained a respected voice for the Aboriginal children and families whom the members collectively represent.

The absolutely critical need to continue our joint efforts to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal children in child protection has been supported by government with the receipt of an additional \$50,000 from the Department for Child Protection to continue the campaign until the end of December 2018. We are truly hopeful that we can secure whole of government support to continue the aims and objectives of the Campaign past this date.

We have continued to grow and develop as an organisation that both the Board and I are very proud of. We have welcome Adele Popow in her role as Administration and Project Support Officer, Mark Davie from Connected Self as a contract trainer and assessor, and Dr. Heather Pearce as Capacity Building Lead (from July 1st, 2018). These roles have further strengthened CAFFSA's ability to respond to the needs of its members and the sector at large in its capacity as a sector advocate.

A year in to trading as 'Child and Family Focus SA', our new name and brand is well and truly entrenched, and we have made significant efforts to enhance our electronic and social media presence. We have re-initiated our monthly e-bulletins, have developed a Facebook presence and have finally completed the development of our online training calendar and portal which is now regularly updated.

We have welcomed a number of new organizational members to our table in 2017/2018, and are looking forward to strengthening cooperation, collaboration and better-informed advocacy as a result. Our membership focus has been broadened to include service providers in the prevention and early intervention space, and we are hopeful that this will be reflected in the work that continues in the development of a whole-of-sector workforce development strategy that we hope to finalize in the first half of 2019.



Rob Martin

Chief Executive Officer, Child and Family Focus SA

October 2018

