



## **Child and Family Focus SA - Policy and Advocacy Platform**

***Child and Family Focus SA (CAFFSA) is the South Australian peak body representing the needs and interests of children, young people and families connected with or at risk of entering the child protection system, and the not-for-profit, non-government organisations who support them.***

Our vision is of an **inclusive community where all children, young people and families are secure, safe and supported.**

The purpose of CAFFSA is to ***represent the needs and interests of children, young people and families connected with or at risk of entering the child protection system, and the not-for-profit, non-government organisations who support them.***

When driving or influencing legislative or policy change, Child and Family Focus SA (CAFFSA) has the potential to act as a catalyst and source of expertise, influencing social policy and child protection policy changes that are driven politically, by the media, community interest, a significant adverse event and/or other aligned peak bodies bringing attention to issues impacting on children and families connected to or at risk of entering the child protection system.

Taking a macro-level view provides an opportunity for CAFFSA to be more attuned to agenda setting opportunities, to drive policy positions and practice recommendations, as well as broaden responses as they relate to public and social issues in the child and family well-being sector.

CAFFSA is a well-known South Australian peak body amongst its membership base. In guiding the policy and advocacy work of the organisation, CAFFSA refers to this Policy and Advocacy Platform to identify those issues that we have the expertise and experience to speak to and to influence.

The five areas of CAFFSA's policy and advocacy focus are:

- **Children and Young People**
- **Families**
- **Community**
- **Services/Sector**
- **Government and System**

Category	Policy and Advocacy Position	Advocacy and Policy Opportunities	Aligned Activities
Children and Young People	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Supporting sibling groups – CAFFSA notes the crucial importance of sibling placements and maintaining contact between siblings</li> <li>2. Culturally competent practice – CAFFSA emphasises culturally competent responses for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families and the need for deep consultation and collaboration with Aboriginal families, communities and agencies.</li> <li>3. The voices of children and young people – CAFFSA reinforces that listening to the views and expressed opinions of children and young people is crucial</li> <li>4. Therapeutic residential care – CAFFSA recognises the components of best-practice therapeutic residential care</li> <li>5. Trauma responsive practice frameworks</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voices of children and young people</li> <li>• If children are unable to live at home, then a therapeutic residential environment, for short durations</li> <li>• Permanency planning</li> <li>• Contact with siblings</li> <li>• Access to services including education</li> <li>• Employment and training opportunities</li> <li>• A nourishing social network</li> <li>• Therapeutic residential care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Matters Campaign</li> <li>• Australian Children’s Safety Alliance</li> <li>• Training and development for the front-line workforce; Cert IV in Child, Youth and Family Intervention; endorsed professional development</li> </ul>
Families	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Early intervention and prevention – CAFFSA recognises the fundamental importance of family support to provide safe and nurturing environments for children</li> <li>2. Culturally competent practice – CAFFSA emphasises culturally competent responses for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families and the need for deep consultation and collaboration with Aboriginal families, communities and agencies</li> <li>3. Foster and Kinship Care – CAFFSA recognises the importance of necessary resources for supporting</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preventative, community-based initiatives, self-referral pathways</li> <li>• Early intervention – Intensive Family Support</li> <li>• Prevention from interacting with the statutory care system</li> <li>• Reunification</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training and development for the front-line workforce; Cert IV in Child, Youth and Family Intervention; endorsed professional development</li> </ul>

	<p>safe, and supportive family-based placements, and the need to recognise Aboriginal parenting practices</p> <p>4. Trauma responsive and trauma informed practices with children, families and young people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kinship care support</li> <li>• Specific Child Only care options</li> <li>• Family Based Care</li> <li>• Specialised and Individual Packages of Care</li> <li>• Respite and respite support</li> </ul>	
Communities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Community responsiveness – CAFFSA recognises the necessary resources for the community sector to support families and to take action on those factors which make it difficult for families to provide safe environments for children.</li> <li>2. Culturally competent practice – CAFFSA emphasises culturally competent responses for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families and the need for deep consultation and collaboration with Aboriginal families, communities and agencies.</li> <li>3. Trauma responsive policy and practice</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every Child Campaign</li> <li>• Family Matters</li> <li>• Child Safe Communities</li> <li>• Place based activities</li> <li>• Access and inclusion</li> <li>• Thriving communities</li> <li>• Prevention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training and sector development for front-line workers</li> <li>• Community training; Child Safe Environments</li> </ul>
Services and Sector	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Training, development and continuing professional development – CAFFSA emphasises the need for ongoing training and education for frontline workers and consistent cross sector development opportunities for staff</li> <li>2. Culturally competent practice – CAFFSA emphasises culturally competent responses for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families and the need for deep consultation and collaboration with Aboriginal families, communities and agencies.</li> <li>3. Trauma responsive and trauma informed practice</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diverse services that meet the needs of diverse communities</li> <li>• Evidenced informed, evidenced based programs</li> <li>• Knowledge sharing</li> <li>• Partnerships and consortium</li> <li>• Prevention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research on behalf of the sector through consortium agreements</li> <li>• Evaluation of programs</li> <li>• Policy advice</li> <li>• Consultation</li> <li>• Training</li> <li>• Network and Collective meetings</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fair and equitable service agreements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCAP</li> </ul>
Government and Systems	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Independent advocacy – the need for independent and objective advocacy in responding to government policy and practice in child protection cannot be understated. The role of sector peak bodies such as CAFFSA is to provide a consolidated, independent voice to salient issues that impact and shape the lives of vulnerable, children, young people and families.</li> <li>2. Culturally competent practice – CAFFSA emphasises culturally competent responses for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families and the need for deep consultation and collaboration with Aboriginal families, communities and agencies.</li> <li>3. Trauma responsive policy and practice</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Therapeutic child protection systems</li> <li>• Trauma informed/responsive practice</li> <li>• Culturally competent</li> <li>• Inclusive</li> <li>• Collaborative</li> <li>• Co-design</li> <li>• Access and inclusion</li> <li>• Legislative changes, and submissions</li> <li>• Address systemic issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project based policy work</li> <li>• Research and evaluation of services and programs</li> <li>• Training</li> <li>• Consultation and feedback on legislation and policy</li> </ul>