



2021 National Foster & Kinship Care Conference

Speakers Expression of Interest

Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers - SA (CF&KC-SA) is thrilled to host the virtual **2021 National Foster and Kinship Care Conference** from **10-12 June 2021**.

We invite representatives from the child protection sector (both non-government and government), academics, advocates and representatives of people with a lived experience of the child protection system to express interest in delivering a presentation or facilitating a workshop.

We seek expressions of interests from speakers in the following areas:

- Keynote speakers (90 minutes)
- Plenary workshop presentations and panel-led discussions (45 minutes)

This conference will present **a unique opportunity** for all child protection stakeholders to learn from, and alongside, Foster and Kinship Carers, in a collaborative and creative environment. Delegates want to hear from **expert local, national and international keynote speakers** on prime issues facing the Foster and Kinship Care space; with the primary focus on ensuring our children and young people thrive and reach their full potential. Throughout this conference we intend to **kick-start a national conversation** regarding the needs of the Foster & Kinship Care sector, using the collective findings from all speakers and delegates to elevate Australia's family based care to that of a world class model.

This conference will be culturally responsive, relevant and progressive in reflecting current caring trends and aim to attract participation from a diverse audience of Carers, professional stakeholders, researchers and young people in the Foster and Kinship Care sector.

It is essential all presentations encompass the **three pillars** of the Conference:

1. Connect (the caring community together)
2. Share (relevant, effective information & strategies)
3. Learn (from each other to elevate the caring journey together)

All delegates will be provided the opportunity to explore their current thinking and identify new strategies for care, whilst mixing with likeminded people from all walks of the child protection sector. Above all we aim to refresh, reinvigorate and renew all stakeholders involved in the highly respected journey of Foster and Kinship Care.

Conference streams

Several main streams were identified by the Carer community:

- Education: school transitioning & retention including building secure attachment
- Disability + NDIS
- Managing challenging behaviours and therapeutic parenting techniques
- Cultural connection + support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children/young people
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and other co-morbidities
- Gender fluidity + LGBTIQ awareness regarding children & young people
- Mental health & wellbeing for Carers, children & young people
- How to advocate effectively
- Legal issues and how best to navigate
- Issues regarding regulation, sensory based support, "meltdowns" & fussy eaters due to trauma

Keynote speakers

The keynote speakers will include an opening keynote and closing keynote speaker. An **opening keynote speaker** will set the underlying tone of the Conference and summarise the core message or three pillars of the event. The **closing keynote speaker** will be engaged to end a conference on a high note and leave audiences with a sense of optimism.

Plenary workshops & panel-led presentations

The plenary workshop presentations will be practical, proven and oriented towards skills-development for all stakeholders within the child protection sector. Plenary workshop presentations will promote community cohesion and strengthen practices (programs, strategies, activities, methodologies, tools and resources) relating to one or more of the conference themes. Plenary workshops that promote innovative community cohesion strengthening practices and also train trainers will be considered favourably. Panel-led presentations will be considered as essential elements of this conference.

Instructions

Speaker application forms must be submitted to admin@cfc-sa.org.au by **31 March 2021**.

Presentation descriptions should not exceed 300 words. It should outline the main content and how it contributes to the three pillars of the conference: to connect, share + learn. Presentation descriptions are also asked to outline the methodology of the research and how the content will address current challenges and solutions, through a national lens.

All presenters are to supply a high quality photo and biography (200 words) for inclusion in the conference e-handbook and website.

Presenters will be notified by email by April 2021.



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Speakers Expression of Interest Application

Presenter's Name: _____

Organisation (if applicable): _____

Contact Address: _____

Contact email: _____

Phone number: _____

Preferred presentation type:

- ☐ **Keynote presentation**
- ☐ **Plenary workshops (inc. panel-led discussions)**

Preferred Title of Keynote/Plenary workshop: _____

Does your presentation cover the three pillars of our conference:

- ☐ **Connect (the caring community together)**
- ☐ **Share (relevant, effective information & strategies)**
- ☐ **Learn (from each other to elevate the caring journey together)**

Does your presentation have a national lens?

- ☐ **Yes**
- ☐ **No**
- ☐ **In part**

Short Description of Keynote/Plenary workshop/Poster presentation:

Short profile on Presenter (to be included in conference handbook and website):

Thank you for expressing an interest in presenting at the virtual 2021 National Foster & Kinship Care Conference. Please submit the completed form to admin@cfc-sa.org.au