



AUTUMN EDITION

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2025

WELCOME TO OUR

Foster and Kinship Carers Association of Tasmania Newsletter



In this newsletter:

Conferences plus
Statewide training
and events
calendar.

Message from the CEO

I would like to start by wishing everyone in our FKAT family a happy Autumn and upcoming Easter break. It was lovely to get around the State last December and join all of you at our Christmas lunches. It was the perfect end to a great year. A very big thank you to all carers who have attended our extensive and broad range of training sessions in 2024, I hope you have felt empowered and encouraged to continue the amazing work you do. We will continue to offer you high standard training in 2025/2026 and have just released our Statewide training and events calendar so you can start to save the dates ahead of time, to not miss out! I am excited to announce that this year we are again hosting our Statewide Foster and Kinship Carers Conference at the Tailrace Centre from the 12th – 13th of

September, 2025. Please see attached flyer for further details.

In other exciting news, ten successful nominees, selected by an independent panel, have now been invited to join the new Carer Advisory Group to assist and discuss important issues and impacts on the Out of Home Care sector. The group held their first meeting in Hobart on the 13th of March and will continue to meet regularly over the course of the year. I am looking forward to meeting up with many of you this year as FKAT continue to support you in your caring roles now and into the future.

Kim and the FKAT team.



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Foster and Kinship Carers
Association of Tasmania



WWW.FKAT.ORG.AU



Message from the Chair

Hi Everyone,

I can't believe that we are coming to the end of March and almost into Easter! It feels like yesterday that I was writing my report for 2024.

This year has been another busy start to the year for our Board members, as we try to bring updated information and opportunities for training to our Foster and Kinship Carers, both formal and informal.

I'd like to say a special thanks to Kim Backhouse for the endless hours she puts in, and so often above her agreed work hours, too many meetings and tireless hours of work to mention.

We sent Kim and several other Board members and carers to Victoria for the National Conference late last year to gain updated

information and network with other carers and association members nationally. This year there are several opportunities to attend Conferences Nationally including the Gold Coast, Sydney and of course in our home State of Tasmania this September in Launceston.

Training is one of our main focuses this year and we will continue to invite carers to participate in a wide range of training to ensure that our carer cohort are fully equipped to take on challenges in their caring roles. Dr Julian Watchorn who attends our Chigwell office regularly to educate us on ways to best work with the Department and our Children, will deliver new and updated training across all regions regularly. Julian has been a support to many carers for a long time now and we really appreciate the support he gives to FKAT and our members. In the coming months I aim to visit carers on the Eastern and Northern shores to ensure that any carers who aren't connected in have opportunity to join our carer catch ups.

Coming Up....

Hoping to get around to the Eastern and Northern shore carers

Message from the Vice President

Firstly, I would like to thank all carer's for their dedication and hard work daily. You do an extraordinary job for the community, caring for the States most vulnerable children & young people. You welcome them into your home, create a stable, safe and loving home. Even amidst the challenges that the children and young people often face, you are there for them.

I spent a good part of my year last year busy with wellbeing concerns, which seem to be on the rise. As Vice President of FKAT I would like to see more training for FAST representatives in 2025, given the changes that happen, FAST reps need to be up to date with new policy and practices. This can make a huge difference in support for carers.

I continue to liaise closely with Kim this year not only with FAST issues but also keeping abreast of the many meetings Kim attends. Kim and I have recently talked about the reimbursement for carers, which has not changed for some time. Kim spoke at an OoHC meeting late last year about the increase of groceries, petrol and power and that the current standard payment does not reflect the current cost of living. This will continue to be advocated for going forward.

This year we are excited to have several training opportunities for our membership and all carers across Tasmania including our informal kinship carers. Thank you to Dr. Julian Watchorn for the hours he puts in to facilitating training and workshops and we are looking forward to engaging in new training throughout 2025 and 2026.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our carer catch ups in the North-West, training and of course our State Conference this September. It's going to be a fantastic year.

Maggie

Goal for 2025

Wanting to get updated FAST training for representatives.



CONFERENCES



This year in June a very special opportunity to attend the yellow ladybug conference online. the conference is focused on supporting girls with autism and gender diverse students. FKAT are happy to subsidise the full cost of this conference. please email Kim at ceo@fkat.org.au for further details.



National Foster & Kinship Care Conference
28-30 November 2025
NSW (Location TBA)

National Foster and Kinship Care Conference

will this year be held in Sydney from the 28th-30th November 2025. This is a fantastic opportunity to network with other carers from different States and Territories.

AUSTRALIAN CHILDHOOD FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL CHILDHOOD TRAUMA CONFERENCE 2025

Well renowned ACF once again are hosting the ever-popular International Childhood Trauma Conference this August in Melbourne. The conference is a unique place for sharing best practice approaches, emerging ideas, and critical considerations in the field of childhood trauma.

If you are interested in attending please email ceo@fkat.org.au

International Childhood Trauma Conference 2025

17 – 22 August, Melbourne
Convention & Exhibition Centre

Register now

QUEENSLAND FOSTER AND KINSHIP CARE CONFERENCE 2025.

The theme for the 2025 conference, Leave No Child in Foster and Kinship Care Behind and provides an opportunity for staff and carers to come together to network, learn, and to gain a better understanding of each other's roles.
2nd – 4th May 2025 – Novotel Sunshine Coast Resort, Twin Waters



FOSTER & KINSHIP CARERS STATEWIDE *Conference*

DAY 1

**DAY 2
+
AGM**

**Extra
Information
+
Dinner**

FRIDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

Start time 9:30am - 5pm
Morning Tea, Lunch &
Afternoon Tea provided

REGISTRATION:

ceo@fkate.org.au
RSVP 30th April - Accommodation
Conference rego closes 30th August

Full list of speakers and
presentations will be
available at a later date.

SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER

Start time 9:30am -
12noon (workshops)
Morning Tea & Lunch
provided

AGM

12:30pm-2:00pm
Guest speaker

ACCOMMODATION

FKAT will pay \$250 towards
accommodation for those
travelling from North-West and
South of the state. Fuel vouchers
also provided

DINNER

Dinner will be Friday night at
Grindelwald at 6:30pm

**12TH -13TH SEPTEMBER
2025**

TAILRACE
CENTRE
1 WATERFRONT
DRIVE, RIVERSIDE.

TRAINING AND EVENTS

MEG BAKER FROM OUT OF HOME CARE VISITS THE NORTH WEST

Meg Baker is going to be visiting the North West carers to discuss her new Carer Liaison role. This is a great opportunity for carers to come and meet Meg and learn more about how she can support you in your caring role.

What does Meg do in this role?

The Carer Liaison Role is a new one and supports carer engagement and recruitment recommendations from the Col.

Meg is responsible for managing prospective carer enquiries and supporting departmental carer engagement. This looks like hosting events for departmental carers, meeting with you and being present in your community, being a support or contact for when you need peer support, have a quick question, or can't contact the department.

This is a wonderful opportunity to meet Meg and get to know more about her role. We look forward to seeing you all there.

WEDNESDAY

13A LOWER MADDEN ST, DEVONPORT

19TH MARCH

10:30AM-12NOON

REGISTER NOW

0400876907

ceo@fkat.org.au

Meg Baker
Speaker



Circle of Security Parenting™ Program

Now available for parents/carers to connect with their children, to develop self-esteem, strengthen emotional regulation, establish a sense of security and to help them grow in confidence.



CONNECTION grows LANGUAGE
LANGUAGE grows CONNECTION

8 week online interactive workshop

Starts 6th May 2025

Tuesday evenings, 8:00 - 9:30pm

In the comfort of your home, at a time children are most likely in bed!

Cost: \$275 for individuals, \$385 for couples

programs@spt.com.au | www.spt.com.au | (03) 6234 5717

REGISTER HERE



Dr Julian Watchorn

GRIEF TRAINING

Join us for a supportive training session on navigating grief and loss as a carer.

- Gain useful strategies to cope with grief and loss.
- Understand the unique grief of fostering.
- Build resilience and emotional well-being, and continue fostering a nurturing environment for everyone involved.

RSVP today to not miss this amazing training

South
Friday 11th April
10am-12noon

Boyd Court, FKAT office
Claremont

North
Tuesday 15th April
10am-12noon

Door of Hope, Launceston
Follow signs in the foyer

North-West
Wednesday 16th April
10am-12noon

Communities and Families
building 23 Steele St,
Devonport.

RSVP TO CEO@FKAT.ORG.AU ONE WEEK PRIOR

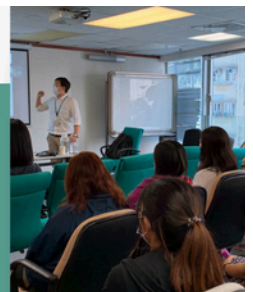


FOSTER AND KINSHIP CARERS
ASSOCIATION TASMANIA PRESENT

TRAINING WITH DR JULIAN WATCHORN

Training will begin at 10:00am and conclude at 12:00noon.

Private consultation begins at 12:30pm and concludes at 2:00pm



NORTH - WEST

Wednesday 16th July.

10AM-12noon.
Updated Trauma Informed Care training.
Community Helath Centre,
Steele St, Devonport.

SOUTH

Friday 25th July.

10AM-12noon.
Updated Trauma Informed Care training.
Boyd Crt, Claremont.

NORTH

Thursday 31st July

10am-12noon
Updated Trauma informed care training.
Door of Hope Launceston.

Baptcare Grandparents group.

Friday 1st August

10am-12noon.
Updated Trauma informed care.
Ravenswood primary School.

We look forward to seeing you all there.

PRIVATE CONSULTS

Julian will be available for private consult following training for carers to chat through personal matters including care concerns.
12:30pm-2:00pm



Put the dates in your diary now!

To RSVP and for more information email
ceo@fkat.org.au

**EVENTS AND TRAINING CALENDAR
2025**

JANUARY

- **NO TRAINING**

FEBRUARY

- **NO TRAINING**

MARCH

- Wednesday 19th. Meg Baker visits North-West carers to discuss her new liaison role in OoHC.

APRIL

- Friday 11th. Dr Julian Watchorn. Grief and Loss training. Boyd Court, Claremont.
- Monday 14th. CREATE Easter at the zoo event, Tasmania Zoo, Riverside.
- Tuesday 15th. Dr Julian Watchorn, Grief and loss training, Door of Hope, Launceston.
- Wednesday 16th. Dr Julian Watchorn. Grief and Loss training. 23 Steele St Devonport.

MAY

- Thursday 15th. Carer Advisory Group meeting in Launceston at the Tailrace Centre, Riverside.
- Friday 2nd- Sunday 4th. Queensland Foster and Kinship Care Conference. Novotel, Sunshine Coast, QID.

JUNE

- Tuesday 3rd- Thursday 5th. Yellow Ladybugs Conference (Online). This Conference is focused on supporting girls with ASD.

JULY

- Wednesday 16th. Dr Julian Watchorn. Updated Trauma Informed Care Training. 23 Steele St, Devonport.
- Thursday 17th. Carer Advisory Group meeting (South).
- Friday 25th. Dr Julian Watchorn. Updated Trauma Informed Care Training. Boyd St, Claremont.
- Thursday 31st. Dr Julian Watchorn. Updated Trauma Informed Training. Door of Hope, Launceston.

AUGUST

- Friday 1st. Dr Julian Watchorn. Updated Trauma Informed Care Training. Baptcare Grandparent Group, Ravenswood Primary.
- Sunday 17th- Friday 22nd. Australian Childhood Foundation, International Childhood Trauma Conference, Sydney, NSW.

SEPTEMBER

- Thursday 11th. Carer Advisory Group meeting. Tailrace Centre, Riverside.
- 12th - 13th Foster and Kinship Carers Association of Tasmania Statewide Conference, Tailrace Centre, Riverside.
- Saturday 13th. FKAT AGM held at Tailrace Centre, Riverside.
- Week beginning Monday 8th Foster Care Week luncheons held in each region.

OCTOBER

- FKAT and CREATE Halloween Party. Details TBA closer to the time.

NOVEMBER

- Thursday 6th. Dr Julian Watchorn. Resilience and Well-being training, Door of Hope, Launceston.
- Friday 7th. Dr Julian Watchorn. Resilience and Well-being training, Boyd Crt, Claremont.
- Thursday 13th. Carer Advisory Group meeting (South).
- Friday 21st. Workshop - Embracing change, strengthening carers for the future. Boyd Crt, Claremont.

DECEMBER

- Week beginning the 8th through till 19th. FKAT Christmas luncheons held in each region.
- FKAT and CREATE Christmas event TBA closer to the time.

NOVEMBER

- Wednesday 5th. Dr Julian Watchorn. Resilience and Well-being training, Paranaple Centre, Devonport.

**EVENTS AND TRAINING CALENDAR
2026**

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

- **NO TRAINING**

- **NO TRAINING**

- Wednesday 18th. Dr Julian Watchorn, Managing Emotions and Challenging Behaviour training. Paranaple Centre, Devonport.
- Thursday 19th. Dr Julian Watchorn. Managing Emotions and Challenging Behaviour training. Door of Hope, Launceston.-
- Friday 20th. Dr Julian Watchorn. Managing Emotions and Challenging Behaviour training. Boyd Crt, Claremont.
- Thursday 26th. Carer Advisory Group meeting (South).

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

- Saturday 16th. Big Day Out. Launceston venue TBA.
- Wednesday 20th. Dr Julian Watchorn. From resistance to Resilience training. Paranaple Centre, Devonport.
- Thursday 21st. Dr Julian Watchorn. Resistance to Resilience training. Door of Hope, Launceston.
- Friday 22nd. Dr Julian Watchorn. From resistance to Resilience training. Boyd Crt, Claremont.

MAY

- Friday 15th May. Carer Advisory Group meeting. Tailrace Centre.

**SAVE THE DATE
SEPTEMBER 2026**

- National Foster and Kinship Conference will be held in QLD In September 2026.

