

Responding to the Needs of Kinship Carers in South Australia

Report by

Dr Fatin Shabbar

Esther Rowlson

Dr Amy Bromley

Dr Carmela Bastian

Dr Nada Ibrahim

2025 | CHANNEL 7 CHILDREN'S RESEARCH FOUNDATION GRANT



Acknowledgment of Country

The research team acknowledges the Kurna people as the custodians of the lands and waters of the Adelaide region, on which we work and live. We acknowledge and respect the Kurna people's cultural, spiritual, physical and emotional connection with their land, and we pay our respect to Elders past and present. We also pay respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across Australia. We honour their past and present Elders and Custodians.

Acknowledgment

This research project was made possible through the funding from the Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation Grant.

The research team would like to express their sincere gratitude to all the carers who participated in this study and generously shared their stories and experiences, which have been invaluable in developing a deeper understanding of kinship care.

We also like to thank the following members of the Advisory Group for their invaluable support, guidance and feedback throughout the project. Their thoughtful insights have greatly enhanced the clarity and quality of this work. This report does not necessarily represent the views of these individuals or their organisations.

Advisory group (listed alphabetically):

Amalie Mannik – Centacare Catholic Community Services

Fiona Endacott/Sharee Borlace – Connecting Foster & Kinship Carers SA

Julie Powell – Department for Child Protection

Shaun Bott – Kornar Winmil Yunti (KWY)

Corresponding author:

Dr Fatin Shabbar

Social Relationships and Communities Research Group
Justice and Society, University of South Australia.

St. Bernards Road, Magill, SA 5072

Email: fatin.shabbar@unisa.edu.au

Contents

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| Glossary | 3 |
| Executive summary | 4 |
| Research overview | 5 |
| Kinship care in context | 6 |
| Research design | 7 |
| Key findings | 9 |
| Recommendations | 13 |
| References | 15 |

Glossary

CALD: Culturally and linguistically Diverse.

CYPS Act 2017 (Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017): The South Australian legislation concerning the protection of children, giving authority to the child protection agency in South Australia; the Department for Child Protection.

DCP: Department for Child Protection.

Kinship Care: A temporary, short-term, or long-term living arrangement where children are placed with relatives or family members other than their biological parents.

Formal kinship care: A legally recognised care arrangement in which a child is placed with relatives or community connections under the authority of child protection services or court orders. Also known as statutory kinship care.

Informal Kinship Care: A caregiving arrangement where children are raised by relatives or close family friends without formal involvement or decision-making from child protection agencies or legal systems.

OOHC: Out-of-Home-Care.

Placement: A temporary, short-term, or long-term living arrangement with caregivers other than the child's biological parents or legal guardians.

Trauma-informed care: A model of care that acknowledges the presence and impact of trauma symptoms on individuals affected by trauma. The approach prioritises understanding the connections between trauma, behaviour, and relationships to create supportive and safe environments that avoid re-traumatisation and promote healing.

Trauma responsive: This concept builds on trauma-informed care by actively applying trauma-informed insights and principles with a greater focus on applicability and adaptability. It involves tailoring care and support to the unique needs of the individuals and families affected by trauma, integrating strategies that foster resilience and recovery in ways specific to their experiences and environments.

Executive Summary



Kinship care in Australia

- In SA, 50% of all children in state care live with kinship carers, compared to 55% nationally, with numbers growing.
- The majority of kinship care is done informally, without statutory support or official recognition.
- Kinship care is particularly important for Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and CALD families to ensure that children and young people remain connected to culture.
- Kinship care provides stability, connectedness, and positive outcomes for children that can be further enhanced with greater resourcing and support.

Aims of the study

The study emphasises the importance of understanding and supporting the unique needs of kinship carers to enhance the quality of care for children. The study determined:

1. Factors that ensure the success and sustainability of kinship care.
2. Characteristics of placements that promote safety, stability, and support for children.
3. Strategies to improve formal kinship care processes.



Research design

- **Stakeholder advisory group:** Established to provide ongoing guidance throughout the project.
- **Ethics approval:** Granted by the University of South Australia Human Research Ethics and the Aboriginal Research Human Ethics Committee
- **Data collection:** Conducted through semi-structured interviews with 34 formal kinship carers.
- **Data analysis:** Thematic analysis was used to analyse, synthesise and present the data.



Key findings

- **Redefining success:** The meaning of kinship care extends beyond a placement model to support broader care aspects.
- **Trauma-responsive support:** Recognising and addressing the impact of trauma on family life is critical to fostering resilience and stability.
- **Care quality:** Trauma-informed support that extends beyond basic needs strengthen carers' capacity to provide quality care.
- **Collaboration:** Holistic, targeted, and flexible education, training and information sharing for the whole team is associated with success.
- **Flexibility:** Tailored and flexible support options in respite and other services offer greater opportunity for carers to manage complexities.
- **Trust:** Non-punitive and trust-driven support systems enhance carer engagement and service accessibility.



Recommendations

We recognise the important role of policy makers, service providers and other stakeholders in:

1. **Prioritising the voices of children and kinship carers** in defining the concept of success in kinship care, ensuring that it is understood and measured in ways that are flexible, culturally responsive, and firmly grounded in meaningful family relationships and values
2. Supporting the establishment of **specialist kinship teams** that align the work of the child's social worker and the carer support worker under a shared trauma responsive and family-centred model to ensure the provision of collaborative and integrated support to the child and their carer.
3. Providing clear and **robust professional development and capacity building pathways** for both carers and the workforce informed by lived experience voices and expertise.

Research overview

Kinship care has seen a significant increase in Australia, with data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) showing the number of households with kinship placements in South Australia rising by 30% between 2019 and 2023.

While many kinship care arrangements are informally coordinated, a significant number are recognised formal care arrangements within the child protection system, currently representing 51% of all placement types in South Australia (AIHW, 2023). Kinship care capacity to maintain stability and overall positive outcomes for children is well documented and recognised. The connection to culture and family facilitated by this type of care is particularly significant for First Nations families and communities making it the preferred option of care that is aligned with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principles, and in accordance with the Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017. Kinship care is also highly relevant for migrant communities, as it helps maintain children's connections to their cultural identity.

However, despite its legislative significance and overall positive outcomes for children, kinship care in Australia lacks adequate attention and resourcing (Kiralý, 2015; Vicary, 2015; Fernandes et al., 2021). The Inquiry into Foster and Kinship Care led by Dr Fiona Arney identified multiple systemic and service-related concerns impacting kinship care, with carers describing themselves as 'poor cousins' (Arney et al. 2022). Aligning with the call for a 'meaningful change', this study centers the voices of carers to inform effective and sustainable change by identifying factors that contribute to success.

There has been very little investment in understanding the nuances of kinship care and the predictors that facilitate sustainable and successful placements. In this research project, we recognise that identifying key success factors allows for more effective support for children and their carers, promoting the development of safe, stable, and supportive care systems. The study is founded on the argument that the quality of care provided to children is significantly influenced by the adequacy of support provided to carers. Hence, we propose that recognising and adequately responding to the unique needs of kinship carers is key to fostering an effective and sustainable care system. Within this focus, this study aimed to identify:

- Factors that contribute to the success and sustainability of kinship care.
- Characteristics of kinship care placements that promote safety, stability, and support for children
- Strategies that could enhance the formal processes relevant to kinship care.

Kinship care in context

The policy context of kinship care is influenced by international, federal, and state frameworks and legislation. The primary policy and legislative frameworks shaping kinship care in South Australia are the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Cohen, 1989), the Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017 (CYPS Act), the National Standards for Out-of-home care (Department of Families & National Framework Implementation Working Group, 2011), the Charter of Rights for Children and Young People in Care (Office of the Guardian for Children and Young People, 2017) and the Statement of Commitment (Department for Child Protection et al., 2024) that outlines an agreement between carers, NGO providers, and statutory services. These documents establish the requirements and principles that not only guide kinship care but also define success by prioritising children’s safety, family connections, and well-being. In South Australia, this legislative foundation sets the stage for understanding how success is achieved and measured in kinship care placements.

Generally, successful care is best represented in the legislation via the recognition of children’s ‘best interests’, defined as protecting the child from harm, supporting family responsibility in upbringing, addressing emotional and psychological needs, ensuring timely decision-making for stability, allowing children to express their views, maintaining their identity, providing a safe environment, and prioritising placements with family or supportive individuals. The CYPS Act 2017 recognises kinship care as a preferred option by identifying the importance of placements “with a person with whom the child or young person has an existing relationship”, a stance reinforced by its proposed successor, the Children and Young People (Safety and Support) Bill 2024, which elevates ‘best interests’ as second only to safety.

Figure 1: Key factors associated with success



In contrast, the literature adopts a narrower lens for measuring success, where it is often framed in terms of ‘benefits’ and/or ‘quality care’, focusing on safety (absence of maltreatment), stability (limited placement disruption), and child well-being (lack of behaviour problems and general wellbeing) as the primary indicators of successful outcomes across all types of OOH placements. This emphasis on concrete, observable outcomes departs from the legislation’s broader ‘best interests’ framework, favouring pragmatic measures that lack nuance in understanding the context of kinship care.

A growing body of evidence supports the positive impact of kinship care in providing children and young people with stability, connectedness and sense of identity that

result in better outcomes in multiple domains (Hassall et al., 2021; Winokur et al., 2018; Xu & Bright, 2018; Rubin et al., 2008). However, kinship care also faces unique challenges that are not experienced in other types of care (Borenstein et al., 2025; Kiraly, 2023; Kiraly & Kertesz, 2021; McPherson et al., 2022; Kiraly, 2018; Boetto, 2010). While the challenges faced by kinship carers are well proven and documented, very little is known about the success indicators and characteristics that promote safety, stability and support for children in these care arrangements. Knowledge of these factors can help generate a comprehensive understanding of the formal processes that need to be developed to support optimal caring experience for children.

Research design

To better understand the factors contributing to successful kinship care, this one-year research project utilised a qualitative research design grounded in narrative theory, amplifying the voices of kinship carers.

By foregrounding the lived experience of kinship carers, this study investigated the characteristics of thriving kinship care arrangements, extending the focus beyond placement continuity as the primary measure of success. Qualitative methods were employed to examine factors that contribute to the success of kinship care placements that prioritise the safety, health and wellbeing of children in these care arrangements. The study focused on determining service and support gaps, decision-making factors for continuing care arrangements, and formal processes that could be developed to support this system of care. Reflecting this focus, the study was guided by two primary research questions:

- What are the factors that facilitate and constrain sustainable and successful kinship care placements?
- What are the characteristics of kinship care placements that promote safety, stability and support for children?

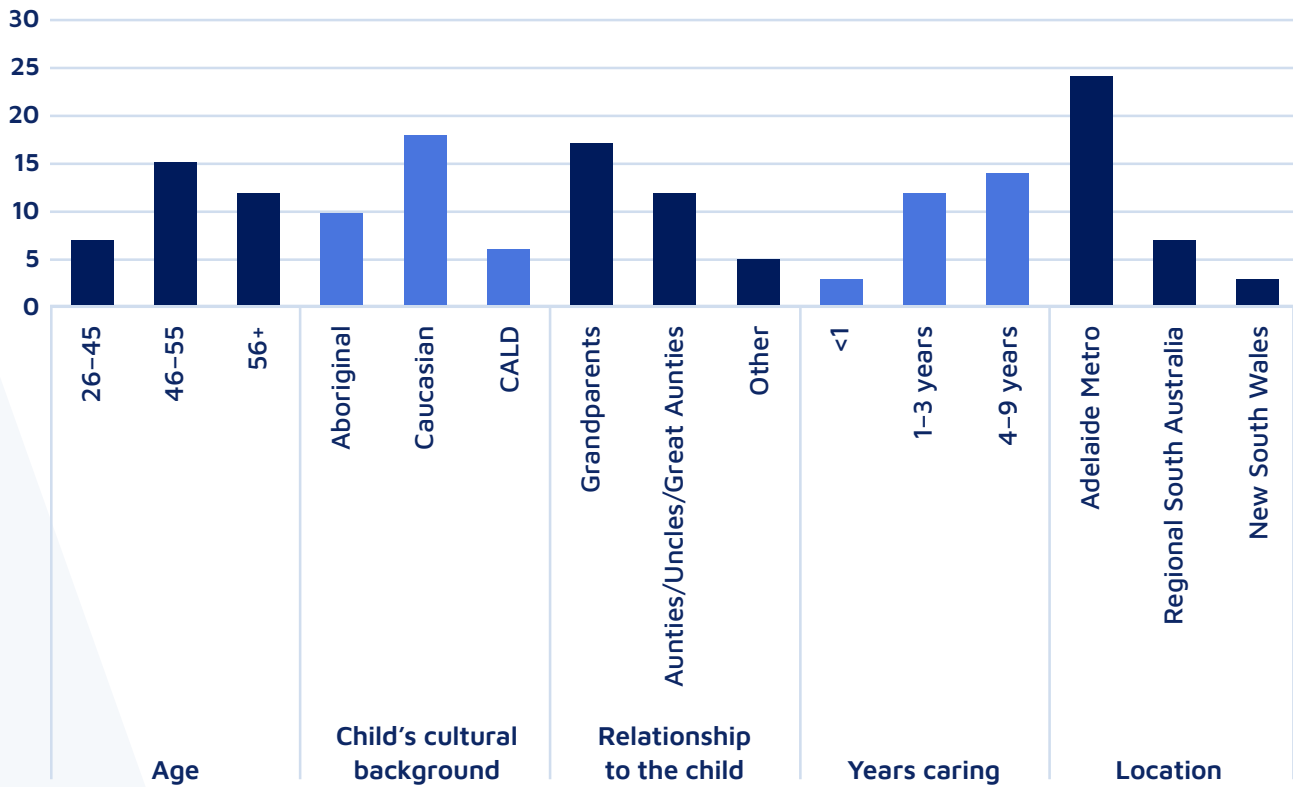
The study was conducted in multiple stages, beginning with the establishment of key foundational components that ensured a rigorous framework for subsequent research stages, these included:



Data collection & data analysis

Data were collected through semi-structured interviews conducted with 34 formal kinship carers. Participants were predominantly female (91%), grandparents (50%), aged 46-55 years (44%), and based in the Adelaide metropolitan area (71%). Most were caring for Caucasian children (53%), with 30% caring for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children, and 17% Culturally & Linguistically Diverse children (CALD).

Figure 2: Demographic profile of the research participants



The interviews focused on gathering kinship carers' views and perspectives from their own experiences, particularly in relation to the following topics:

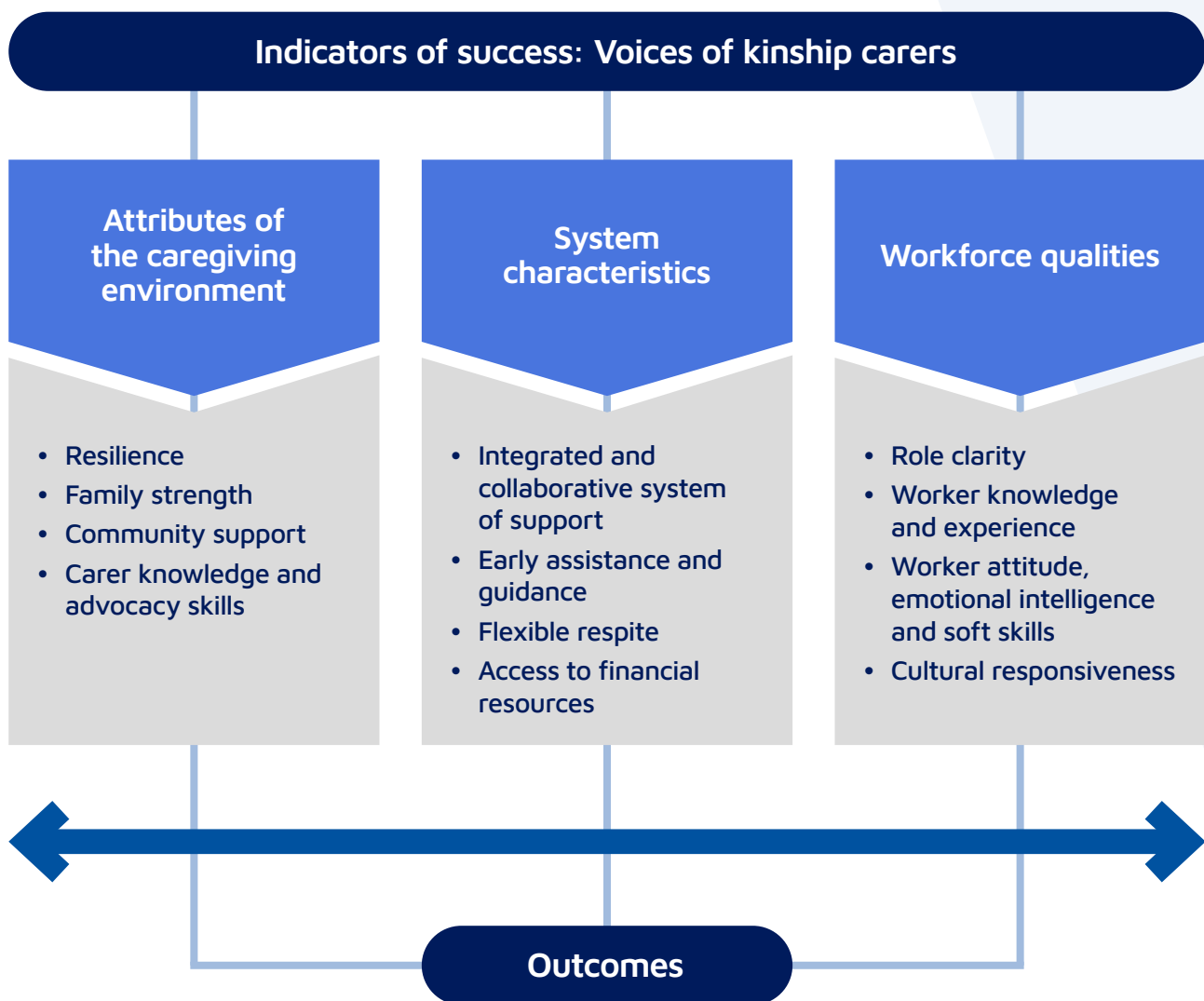
- Perceptions on what constitutes a successful placement.
- Factors that contribute to the success and sustainability of kinship care.
- Characteristics of kinship care placements that promote safety, stability and support for children
- Strategies that could enhance the formal processes relevant to kinship care.

Data were analysed using thematic analysis with a focus on identifying commonalities and differences across narratives (Braun & Clarke, 2021). While the study included participants from diverse cultural backgrounds, this report does not present a cultural analysis of the data. As we present a shared insights from all participants, we recognise that each cultural context would benefit from a dedicated cultural analysis, which is beyond the scope of this report.

Key findings

Data gathered in this study was divided into three main categories with multiple subthemes that highlight connections across topics as demonstrated in figure 1. The three categories emerged from the participants' own articulation of success and its indicators, reflecting their lived experiences and perspectives. Informed by their definition, which served as a unifying framework for all themes, carers in this study highlighted key factors that facilitated successful outcomes for children in kinship care. These factors are presented under three categories: attributes of the caregiving environment, system characteristics, and workforce qualities. These categories are intricately linked, as they contribute to creating stable kinship placements that are not only safe and consistent, but also foster the emotional, moral and spiritual empowerment of children.

Figure 3: summary of research themes



Indicators of Success



They have just gone LTG; long term guardian, no longer department involved, which is brilliant, couldn't have asked for a better outcome. They love the idea that they are not welfare kids anymore. I always said to them, you never were.

The study found notable differences between the implicit systemic definition of success and that of kinship carers. Measures of success within a systemic framework were heavily embedded in the conceptualisation of kinship care as a child protection service with carers mainly viewed as service providers, even listed under the workforce section in the National Framework (Department of Social Services, 2021). However, many carers in this study did not specifically categorise their contribution as a mere child protection service. They placed greater emphasis on their roles as family members that predates and extends far beyond child protection involvement. While carers acknowledged their position within a formalised system, they emphasised the importance of recognising their multifaceted and intersecting roles that distinguish them as unique within the OOHC system. Accordingly, kinship carers in this study defined success holistically, focusing on the “child-in-context” where the well-being of the child is inseparable from the well-being of the family unit. Some of the key indicators identified by carers included belonging and connection to family, identity, and culture, which provides children with a sense of security and continuity. Happiness and love in supportive relationships were emphasised as crucial emotional foundations. Carers also valued routine, structure, and stability in daily life as essential for children who have experienced disruption. Finally, opportunities for growth, empowerment, and development were identified as important measures of success that extend beyond basic care provision.

Attributes of the Caregiving Environment



I couldn't say that it comes from anywhere but inside the house; the success of it

Several factors in the caregiving environment were found to support successful outcomes. Carer resilience and unwavering commitment to the child were identified as foundational elements that sustained kinship placements through challenges. Strong family connections and support networks provided practical assistance and emotional reinforcement for carers. Many carers relied on family support and connections particularly for the provision of practical and emotional support. Additionally, community and peer support, including informal connections and relationships with other kinship carers, offered validation and shared problem-solving opportunities for many carers. In addition to a well-supported caregiving environment, the carers knowledge was recognised as a key factor in fostering a thriving care setting. Access to knowledge about trauma-informed care and developing advocacy skills enabled carers to better understand and respond to children's needs while navigating complex service systems. Whether building knowledge through formal training or peer support, all carers identified that being equipped with knowledge and skills in managing complex caregiving arrangements is essential to success.

System Characteristics Supporting Success



Having a team is really important. Obviously, the carer is at the center of that team, the conductor if you will. Having a responsive team around the young person in care is critical for their outcomes.

In the examination of success within the service system, the analysis was conducted using a holistic approach, identifying the factors that contribute to success across multiple services and diverse agency types including government and non-government. In this context, several key characteristics of effective support systems were identified. One of the main factors of success identified by the carers was a collaborative service system. Integrated and collaborative approaches across services were regarded as necessary in creating cohesive support networks where practitioners worked as a unified team with carers. Within this team approach, early assistance and guidance, particularly during the crucial initial placement period was considered essential in establishing solid foundations for care. Carers emphasised the importance of having sufficient information provided to them at the beginning of placement with effective ways of addressing early concerns. Timely access to adequate financial resources was also deemed essential, not only for meeting basic needs but for providing opportunities that support children's growth and development. Another important systemic characteristic that carers identified as supporting success is flexibility, particularly in services like respite. Flexible respite options tailored to family needs were valued, though carers emphasised the importance of respite that maintained family connections rather than disrupting them.

Workforce Qualities



I would say having the right kinship care worker makes all the difference.

The qualities and capabilities of the workforce emerged as critical factors in supporting successful kinship placements. Workers with a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities provided consistent and reliable support to carers. Extensive experience and in-depth knowledge of kinship care dynamics and the broader system were recognised as essential in enabling practitioners to respond appropriately to the unique challenges of kinship care. Additionally, competencies related to emotional intelligence, communication and relationship-building were also identified as key factors in facilitating trust and promoting success. Carers valued support that was delivered with empathy, understanding and a genuine commitment to partnership and collaboration. Notably, cultural responsiveness and safety were particularly important for Aboriginal families and culturally diverse communities, requiring workers to approach relationships with sensitivity and genuine respect for cultural values and practices. Carers emphasised the importance of workers receiving appropriate training and mentorship, highlighting the need for specialised expertise within the workforce, tailored to kinship care.

Barriers to Success



I often think about that a lot of kinship placements are done out of obligation and sometimes they work and sometimes they don't. Sometimes feel a burden by it, but the hat commitment to the children is what has made the difference.

Although kinship care carries some inherent qualities that contribute to success, the capacity to meet the child's developmental needs remains fragile in the context of limited and inconsistent support. The study identified some significant barriers to success that require careful considerations. Within the caregiving environment, loss of identity and family role confusion created emotional strain for many carers as they navigated their dual role of family member and formal carer. Absence of structured trauma responsive support for the whole family further intensified the challenge for some. As most carers took on their role unexpectedly and without prior preparation, they experienced very diverse and complex practical, emotional and financial needs, particularly in the initial stage. However, system inflexibility, combined with lack of information and lack of trust presented barriers to open communication and help-seeking behaviours. Additionally, Inconsistent service provision resulted in inequitable access to resources and support, a challenge further exacerbated by high workforce turnover, which often contributed to caregiver stress and disrupted relationship-building and continuity of care. Carers residing in regional areas have identified additional challenges related to limited access to specialised services which often delayed interventions and assessments for children with complex needs.

Recommendations

The findings of this study carry important implications for policy, practice and research across multiple levels. Grounded in carers' insights, the following recommendations seek to address key areas of needs by building upon existing strengths and success factors:

1. Redefining success in kinship care

Policy makers, service providers and researchers should prioritise the voices of children and kinship carers in defining and refining the concept of success in kinship care, ensuring that it is understood and measured in ways that are flexible, culturally responsive, and firmly grounded in meaningful family relationships and values. Key aspects to be considered include:

- Focusing research on exploring success and positive outcomes in kinship care from diverse perspectives, including those of children, kinship carers, practitioners, and representatives of First Nations and culturally diverse communities.
- Creating meaningful employment pathways for carers that enable them to actively contribute to system reforms and development, leveraging their lived experience expertise to inform staff training and program development, as well as in governance structures that oversee kinship care formal systems.
- Co-designing programs with children and carers that strengthen family bonding, recognise and incorporate strength-based cultural values, support healthy routines and nurture a strong sense of belonging, love and security within the family unit.

2. Integrated and collaborative system of support

The child protection system should support the structured establishment of specialist kinship teams that aligns the work of the child's social worker and the carer support worker under a shared trauma responsive and family-centred model. These teams can ensure the provision of collaborative and integrated support to the child and their carer through the following key focus areas:

- Providing intensive, personalised and trauma responsive early support to carers during the critical first 6-12 months, with an emphasis on practical assistance, emotional support and timely access to information tailored to the carer's individual needs.
- Developing a family support system model focused on mapping, strengthening and resourcing family connections and networks around the child to build a sustainable and thriving support system in which additional services, such as respite care, can be naturally integrated to meet the child's and family's evolving needs.
- Enabling family-centred and family-driven decision-making processes, embracing the concept of 'doing family' and allowing children and their carers to take greater control over their family dynamics fostering a stronger sense of safety, comfort and normality in the child's life.

3. Capacity development strategy

Statutory and non-statutory organisations that provide child protection and OOHC services must facilitate clear and robust professional development and capacity building pathways for both carers and the workforce informed by lived experience voices and expertise. These pathways can develop through the following directions:

- Providing tailored entry-level and continuous learning training and mentorship opportunities for staff within a sustainable workload to develop specialist expertise across various practice areas, with a focus on recognising and supporting the development of specialisation in kinship care roles.
- Offering individualised capacity building program for carers that recognises their unique development needs in support of their caring role. Whether through targeted education and training strategies or access to peer support, a personalised approach will effectively enhance the quality of care provided to children.
- Partnering with the university sector to support effective transition for graduates and ensure that on-the-job training and capacity building opportunities are based on contemporary and evidence-based research and literature, with a focus on core interpersonal, cultural and relational competencies.

References

AIHW. (2020). *Data tables: Child Protection Australia 2019-20*. Table S7.3.

Canberra: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/child-protection/child-protection-australia-2019-20/data>

AIHW. (2024). *Data tables: Child protection Australia 2022-23*. Table S7.3.

Canberra: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/child-protection/child-protection-australia-2022-23/data>

Arney, F., Schultz, C., Hawkes, M., Bevan, K., & Barnes, M. (2022). *Independent inquiry into foster and kinship care in SA*. <https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/care-and-support/foster-care/inquiry-into-foster-care>

Boetto, H. (2010). Kinship care: a review of the issues. *Family Matters*, 85(1), 60-67.

<https://search.informit.org/doi/10.3316/INFORMIT.242919027907174>

Borenstein, J., Frederico, M., & McNamara, P. (2025). Kinship care in the welfare system: The lived experience and the case for reform. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 168, 108026.

<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2024.108026>

Cohen, C. P. (1989). United Nations: Convention on the rights of the child. *International Legal Materials*, 28(6), 1448-1476.

Department for Child Protection, Child and Family Focus SA, & Connecting Foster and Kinship Carers. (2024). *Statement of Commitment*. Government of South Australia.

<https://www.childprotection.sa.gov.au/support-and-guidance/for-family-based-carers/caring-basics/statement-of-commitment>

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. (2011). *An outline of National standards for out of home care: A priority project under the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009 – 2020*. Canberra: Australian Government. <https://www.dss.gov.au/towards-adulthood/resource/outline-national-standards-out-home-care-2011>

Department of Social Services. (2021). *Safe and supported: The national framework for protecting Australia's children 2021-2031*. Canberra: Australia. <https://www.dss.gov.au/child-protection/resource/national-framework-protecting-australias-children-2021-2031-0>

Fernandes, C., Blundell, B., Moran, R., Gilbert, J., & Liddiard, M. (2021). 'It's not fair': custodial grandparents' access to services and supports in Australia. *Child & Family Social Work*, 26(1), 572-581.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/cfs.12839>

Hassall, A., Janse van Rensburg, E., Trew, S., Hawes, D. J., & Pasalich, D. S. (2021). Does Kinship vs. Foster Care Better Promote Connectedness? A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *Clinical Child and Family Psychology Review*, 24(4), 813-832. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10567-021-00352-6>

Kiraly, M., & Kertesz, M. (2021). 'It's good because my sister is young, and she knows what's going on': Children's views about their young kinship carers. *Child & Family Social Work*, 26(4), 592-600.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/cfs.12841>

Kiraly, M. (2018). Kinship care in Australia – Making it a national issue. *Developing Practice: The Child Youth and Family Work Journal*, 51, 36-43. <https://search.informit.org/doi/10.3316/informit.855836707211309>

Kiraly, M., & Roff, J. (2023). 'We're just kids as well': The experience and support needs of young kinship carers in Australia. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 150, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chilyouth.2023.106967>

McPherson, L., Gatwiri, K., Day, K., Parmenter, N., Mitchell, J. & Macnamara, N. 2022, "The most challenging aspect of this journey has been dealing with child protection": Kinship carers' experiences in Australia", *Children and Youth Services Review*, 139, 106550. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chilyouth.2022.106550>

Rubin, D. M., Downes, K. J., O'Reilly, A. L., Mekonnen, R., Luan, X., & Localio, R. (2008). Impact of kinship care on behavioral well-being for children in out-of-home care. *Archives of pediatrics & adolescent medicine*, 162(6), 550-556.

Vicary, D. (2015) Children Australia – A 40 year retrospective of Australian out-of-home care: reflections of the past and future directions. *Children Australia*, 40(4), 274-279. <https://doi.org/10.1017/cha.2015.46>

Winokur, M., Holtan, A., & Batchelder, K. E. (2018). Systematic review of kinship care effects on safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 28(1), 19-32. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1049731515620843>

Xu, Y., & Bright, C. (2018). Children's mental health and its predictors in kinship and non-kinship foster care: A systematic review. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 89, 243-262. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chilyouth.2018.05.001>

Suggested Citation:

Shabbar, F; Rowison, E., Bromley, A., Bastian, C., & Ibrahim, N. (2025) *Responding to the Needs of Kinship Carers in South Australia*. University of South Australia.