

# STATE BUDGET 2020-21

## MINISTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION HON RACHEL SANDERSON MP MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 10 November 2020

### **Supporting our children and young people in care remains our priority**

The Marshall Liberal Government remains committed to protecting the state's most vulnerable children and young people with \$609 million allocated in the State Budget 2020-21 to child protection this financial year.

This represents an 8 per cent increase in spending in child protection compared to 2019-20, and \$79 million more than the former Labor government spent in its last year in office (\$530 million)

The State Budget 2020-21 provides an additional \$124 million over four years to meet increased costs for a projected increase in the number of children and young people in care.

Minister for Child Protection Rachel Sanderson said the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in care – and better supporting them to reach their full potential – was a number one priority.

“We are working hard every day to ensure we continue to provide the very best support to our most vulnerable children and young people in care in South Australia,” said Minister Sanderson.

“We remain committed to improving outcomes for both children and young people in care, their families and our carers.

“We remain committed to recruiting foster carers and are better scoping kin to ensure children and young people have the best opportunities to thrive and reach their full potential.

“Since coming into Government, we are identifying more children who are in need of protection from abuse and neglect and undertaking more investigations than ever before.

“We are taking a whole-of-government approach to ensure we are better supporting vulnerable South Australian families before there is a need for them to enter the child protection system.

“I would like to take the opportunity to thank our hardworking staff on the ground supporting our children and young people around the clock, as well as our wonderful foster and kinship carers who give love and support to children in care every day.”

### **Recent Marshall Liberal Government child protection and early intervention measures include:**

- More than \$600,000 commitment to support the roll-out of the new *Sanctuary Model* of therapeutic care to improve outcomes for all children and young people across all Department residential care units over the next three years.

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- A \$1.6 million commitment to pilot family group conferences as announced in the 2019/20 State Budget, which is showing positive results in the early stages of the pilot.
- Continuation of the commitment to extend payments to foster and kinship carers for young people in their care to age 21, as announced in the 2018-19 Budget. The Government has committed \$20.6 million over the next four years to continue the support available to care leavers as more young people take up the option of staying with their carers for longer.
- Pilot programs that aim to keep families together include the \$3 million *Safe Kids, Families Together* program and a \$2.2 million intensive family support program *Taikirtirna Tirra-apinhi - Making Safer Families*, specifically designed for Aboriginal families.