



AFKA Policy Position Statements

Financial Respect for Caregivers

AFKA believes that foster and kinship caregivers deserve fair and sustainable compensation that reflects the true cost of care. We advocate for a funding model that acknowledges the vital role caregivers play in child well-being, prevents financial hardship, and supports placement stability.

Mental Health and Wellness Supports

AFKA calls for trauma-informed, accessible mental health and wellness supports for all caregivers. Emotional labour and vicarious trauma are real, and caregivers need consistent access to culturally safe, timely supports.

Reconciliation and Cultural Safety in Child Welfare

AFKA supports the full implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and recognizes the importance of Indigenous self-determination in child welfare. We commit to cultural safety, land-based learning, and partnership with Indigenous governing bodies.

Respite and Relief for Caregivers

AFKA asserts that every caregiver should have access to meaningful respite. This is essential to sustainability, retention, and caregiver mental health.

Stability for Kinship Care

AFKA champions kinship care as a valuable, culturally rooted alternative to traditional foster placements. We advocate for faster onboarding, equitable financial support, and culturally responsive resources for kin caregivers.

Inclusive, Accessible Training for Caregivers

AFKA believes caregivers should receive relevant, high-quality training in trauma, disability, cultural safety, and system navigation. Training must be free, flexible (online/in-person), and rooted in lived experience.

Caregiver Inclusion in System Change

AFKA believes caregivers should be active participants in policy and program development. We advocate for caregiver advisory tables, direct feedback loops, and inclusion in government planning processes.

Fair and Transparent Investigations

AFKA demands that allegations against caregivers be handled with due process, transparency, and respect for caregiver dignity. Investigations should balance child safety with caregiver rights and emotional impacts.

Building a Culture of Care

AFKA is committed to cultivating a culture of compassion, mutual respect, and collaboration with caregivers. We strive to ensure every interaction reflects empathy, dignity, and shared purpose.

Supporting Diverse Caregiver Identities

AFKA acknowledges and values the diverse identities and experiences of foster and kinship caregivers. We are committed to fostering an inclusive environment that embraces all genders, cultures, and family compositions.

Caregiver-Led Solutions

AFKA supports caregiver-led innovation. We will continue to create space for caregivers to design, pilot, and lead initiatives that improve the caregiving experience and enhance outcomes for children.

Co-Created Support Pathways

AFKA promotes a collaborative approach to support. We work with caregivers to identify gaps and co-create flexible supports that meet evolving needs in real time.

Celebrating Caregiver Contributions

AFKA believes in publicly recognizing the compassion, sacrifice, and advocacy of caregivers. Their work is essential, and we commit to ongoing visibility and appreciation.

Strengthening Rural and Remote Caregiving

AFKA advocates for equitable support and connectivity for caregivers in rural and remote communities. Geographic isolation should never mean systemic isolation.

Transparent Communication and Accountability

AFKA is committed to clear, consistent, and honest communication with members. We will report on progress, listen to feedback, and be transparent about decisions that impact caregivers.

Collaboration Over Bureaucracy

AFKA advocates for streamlined processes that prioritize relationships over red tape. Systems should empower, not hinder, caregivers in supporting children and youth.