



ALLIANCE FOR  
**FORGOTTEN  
AUSTRALIANS**

**2023 – 2024**

**Annual  
Report**

# THE ALLIANCE FOR FORGOTTEN AUSTRALIANS

The Alliance for Forgotten Australians (AFA) is a national alliance of Forgotten Australians and supporters, who work in partnership to advocate for and promote national policies and services to meet the needs and interests of Forgotten Australians.

Forgotten Australians are a group of an estimated 500,000 Australians who spent a period of time as a child in a children's home, orphanage, asylum, foster placement, training school or any other form of residential out-of-home facility in Australia before the end of 1989.

## VISION

The Alliance for Forgotten Australians is committed to recognition and healing for Forgotten Australians and encourages their active engagement in the development of policy and services which are person-centred and strengths-based, and which create opportunities and pathways to improve the lives of Forgotten Australians.

## MISSION

AFA's mission is to support Forgotten Australians to amplify their collective voice and ensure active participation nationally, drawing on lived experience by:

- (a) **Advocating** for appropriate past, present and future policies, programs, and services that impact the lives of Forgotten Australians and children in the system since 1989;
- (b) **Educating** elected representatives, policy makers, professionals, academics, and the general community, on the lived experience, past and present, of Forgotten Australians; and
- (c) **Promoting** recognition and inclusion of the past experiences, injustices and impact of the legislation, policies, and practices on the lives of Forgotten Australians as children and adults.

# AFA BOARD



**Caroline Carroll OAM**



**David Henderson**



**Suzanne Burke**



**Daryl Higgins**



**Karyn Walsh AM**



**Jan Schaffarz**

# CHAIR'S REPORT

## CAROLINE CARROLL OAM

After a lengthy process and adoption of the new AFA constitution at the December 2022 AGM, the ASIC Registration of AFA was approved, with AFA now registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee effective from 18 September 2023.

The AFA Board is now fully comprised of Forgotten Australians with one independent member and is focused on drawing on the Boards' experience to advocate, educate and promote the collective voices of Forgotten Australians.

At the 2023 AGM we farewelled three of our long serving Board members, Hilly, Allan and Heather and I personally thank them for their hard work and dedication to pursuing the Mission of AFA and bringing their lived experience to the table.

The AFA Board continues to meet virtually and held two face to face forums during the year, in November 2023 and June 2024.

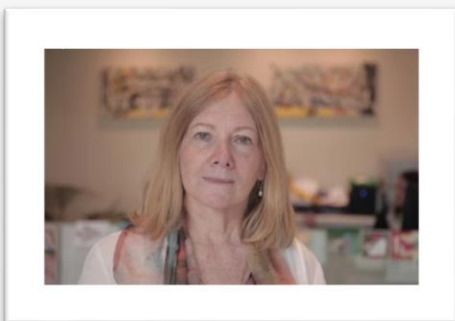
As you will read in the report, alongside attending the numerous meetings and consultations, AFA spent time renewing its advocacy strategy and the priority areas it will focus its efforts on over the next two years.

AFA continued to be represented on several important bodies including the National Aged and Community Care Roundtable, National Memorial for Victims and Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Advisory Group, National Redress Scheme Roundtables, Find and Connect Practice roundtable, Elder Rights Advocacy and Older Persons Advocacy Network.

This annual report and the 2024 AGM will be my last as Chair of AFA, and I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the Board member who have supported AFA work since it was formed in 2006.

My experiences have led me to a lifetime of advocacy for Forgotten Australians. I was in 'care' for the first fifteen years of my life and this experience has given me a profound understanding of both the histories and present issues faced by people who were in out-of-home care.

My work is motivated by a personal passion to see Forgotten Australians (care leavers and other survivors) acknowledged and supported. It has been a privilege to lead AFA through such an important era.





# NOVEMBER 2023 FORUM



On the 22 & 23 November 2023 the AFA Board and affiliate members met in Perth for our second face-to-face forum for 2023.

We heard from across the country about the local activities, increased demand for services, challenges with the National Redress Scheme and difficulties with accessing records.

The forum also discussed AFA's advocacy efforts and agreed to review and priorities AFA's focus areas for 2024.

The forum undertook a site visit to Lanterns and held a morning tea with Forgotten Australians.

Dr Philippa White, Director of Tuart Place, also attended the forum and spoke to their work in supporting Forgotten Australians with redress and civil claims and their input into the Inquiry in WA. Tuart Place have an Aged Care Navigator funded through WA Primary Health Care Agency which is offering support to Forgotten Australians to find community supports to keep them at home as long as possible.

# JUNE 2024 FORUM



On the 12th, 13th and 14th June, the AFA Board, affiliate, and associate members met in Adelaide for our first face-to-face forum for 2024.

We had a very full and productive agenda. Firstly, we heard updates from each of the Find and Connect Services, with some consistent themes emerging that we discussed again as part of the Advocacy Strategy.

We heard about the increased demand for services, the sometime poor practices associated with the DPR's, alongside inadequate funding and concerns about future funding contracts and the timing of reviews and evaluations by Government.

We also heard about the great activities and planning happening at each of the State services by Forgotten Australians and their plans for the 15th Anniversary of the Apology.

On Day two of the June forum, we had the opportunity to attend Elm Place, to have lunch with Forgotten Australians and to have a chat about what's important to them. Some of the key issues raised included:

- Lack of Trueman Informed Care in health services
- Need for a card like a senior's card
- How to become a member of AFA
- Importance of Housing for Forgotten Australians
- Need to hear more about AFA's work
- Need a stronger voice to Government
- The benefits and use of the purple books developed by AFA

# 2023/24 ADVOCACY

AFA members are actively engaged in advocacy to raise awareness and drive changes for Forgotten Australians. In 2023/24, members have participated in a range of activities including:

- National Aged and Community Care Roundtable for Forgotten Australians
- Consultations on the Victorian Redress Scheme
- National consultation with OPAN about the new guidelines for aged care
- National Memorial Advisory Group
- Attended national conference re: in-home aged care in conjunction with OPAN.
- Reproduction of the Information Card in a laminated/more durable format.
- Attended Victorian Apology, Premier Allen delivered Parliamentary Apology. Approximately 16 people attended from AFA's network, including Forgotten Australians and supporters from WA, SA, Qld, and Victoria.
- Advocacy for an NSW Redress Scheme
- National Redress Roundtables
- Older Persons Advocacy Network
- Find and Connect Practice Roundtable
- AFA History Project



# ADVOCACY STRATEGY 2024 – 2026

With two years remaining in AFA's current Funding Agreement with the Department of Social Services, it is timely that AFA focuses its commitment to lobbying for action on all governments' unfinished business for Forgotten Australians, acknowledging that in November 2024, it is fifteen years since the National Apology to Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants, and despite significant achievements, much remains to be done.

At the June 2024 Forum attended by 14 representatives from the AFA Board and AFA Affiliate Members, 25 issues were discussed, with agreement reached at the forum to focus on 10 key Goals.

<b>1</b>	To lobby DSS to increase funding for AFA, to support AFA's capacity for advocacy and related projects.
<b>2</b>	To ensure DSS continues to provide funding to AFA & the Find & Connect Services beyond June 2026
<b>3</b>	To advocate for the prioritization of Forgotten Australians in the allocation of Social and Community Housing in each State and Territory
<b>4</b>	To lobby Government to fund Better Dental Care for Forgotten Australians
<b>5</b>	To Increase the awareness of the needs Forgotten Australians with community and residential aged care providers and support the development of a specialised residential setting for disadvantaged ageing Forgotten Australians.
<b>6</b>	To explore the development of a National Remembrance Week for Forgotten Australians
<b>7</b>	To lobby for a State Redress Scheme in New South Wales
<b>8</b>	To continue to increase awareness of the needs of Forgotten Australians to health professionals (GP's, dentists, psychiatrists)
<b>9</b>	To work with the Tertiary Education System to ensure the history, experiences & impacts on Forgotten Australians are integrated into tertiary education for the helping professions
<b>10</b>	To ensure that DSS continues its commitment to the Find and Connect Roundtable



# GOVERNANCE

## BOARD (July 2023 to June 2024)

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Caroline Carroll OAM</b>	<b>Forgotten Australian Vic</b>	
<b>Deputy Chair</b>	Gordon Hill (Hilly)	Forgotten Australian WA	Retired November 2023
	Allan Allaway	Forgotten Australian Qld	Retired November 2023
	David Henderson	Forgotten Australian Tas	
	Daryl Higgins	Forgotten Australian NSW	
	Heather May	Forgotten Australian NT	Retired November 2023
	Jan Schaffarz	Forgotten Australian SA	
	Karyn Walsh	Independent member, Qld	
	Suzanne Burke	Forgotten Australian WA	Appointed November 2023
	David Selah	Forgotten Australian Qld	November 2023 – March 2024



At the November 2023 AGM, we welcomed Suzanne Burke and David Selah to the AFA Board, David resigned from the Board in March 2024.

At the last AGM we also farewelled three long serving Board members, Hilly, Heather and Allan

All AFA Board members are volunteers and dedicate their time and energy, supporting AFA by drawing on their own lived experience and engaging with other Forgotten Australians in their local communities across Australia.

## AFFILIATE MEMBERS

AFA has always had a strong relationship with State-based support services for Forgotten Australians. This continues with the Affiliate Membership of AFA, the Find & Connect Services across Australia.

Reg Casley

Le-ella Doyle/Ameila Hastings

Luci Lovelock

Michelle McDonald

Darcy Orr

Taylah Peters

Yvonne Porter

Lanterns WA

Early Intervention Services Tas

Elm Place SA

Open Place Vic

Micah Projects Qld

Adult Specialist Support Services NT

Wattle Place NSW

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Maree Holt

Forgotten Australian Vic

## BOARD ATTENDANCE

	August 2023	October 2023	Nov 2023 (Forum)	Dec 2023	March 2024	April 2024	June 2024 (Forum)
Allan Allaway							
Caroline Carroll							
David Henderson							
Daryl Higgins							
Gordon Hill							
Heather May							
Jan Schaffarz							
Karyn Walsh							
Suzanne Bourke							
David Selah							

	Attended
	Apology
	Not Applicable

# FUNDING

Alliance for Forgotten Australians Ltd is funded by the Australian Government  
Department of Social Services



Australian Government  
Department of Social Services

# REGISTRATION

**Name:** Alliance for Forgotten Australians Limited

**Australian Business Number:** 31 955 480 765

**Endorsement date of effect:** October 2014

## PATRON

The Hon Jennifer Coate AO

# CONTACT DETAILS

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