



ALLIANCE FOR
**FORGOTTEN
AUSTRALIANS**

2022-23

ANNUAL REPORT

BACKGROUND

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.

HISTORY

Formed in 2006, the Alliance is a group of Forgotten Australians and supporters who undertake a national advocacy role. AFA was instrumental in the development of the national network of Find & Connect Support Services; the National Museum of Australia's exhibition "Inside: Life in children's homes and institutions"; the booklet "Forgotten Australians" and DVD "Forgotten Australians life stories"; and has made a major contribution to policy development for Forgotten Australians in health and aged care. AFA was actively involved in lobbying for the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and made a number of submissions to the Commission. AFA was represented on the Independent Advisory Council on Redress; the Reference Group for the National Apology to Victims and Survivors on Institutional Child Sexual Abuse; the National Memorial Advisory Group; and the Aged Care Grief and Trauma Consultative Group.



OUR BOARD

Chair



Caroline Carroll OAM

Deputy Chair



Gordon 'Hilly' Hill



Allan Allaway



David Henderson



Daryl Higgins



Heather May



Jan Schaffarz



Karyn Walsh AM

CHAIR'S REPORT

CAROLINE CARROLL OAM

As reported in our 2021-22 Annual Report, AFA has been working on a project to modernise and re-focus our governance. This project came to its conclusion in December last year when AFA's members voted in a revised Constitution for our organisation which heralded a new era of governance for AFA. We are now a Company Limited by Guarantee, registered with ASIC, reflecting our truly national coverage and our desire to make sure we are appropriately registered and governed to the highest requirements.

A new Board was appointed as part of the transition to the new structure in December 2022. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the Board members who retired in December for their significant contribution and support of AFA's mission - Reg Casley, Kevin O'Neill, Michelle McDonald, Yvonne Porter and Pamella Vernon OAM. We are delighted they all remain very active contributors to AFA's ongoing work!

Our Board continues to meet using video conference. We met five times as a Board, along with two face to face forums with the broader membership group and the AGM held online in December.

As you will see in this report, we have continued to be active in promoting awareness of Forgotten Australians among the community, agencies and governments. We re-launched our Forgotten Australians Information Card, with a QR code linking back to AFA's website so that professionals and others can find out more about the issues and needs of Forgotten Australians. We also designed and distributed two Forgotten Australian posters which can be displayed in medical clinics, neighbourhood houses, support services, etc - again with the aim of continuing to raise awareness and educate the broader community about the experiences and issues facing Forgotten Australians.

Our members have continued local advocacy in all States and the Northern Territory - with the Commission of Inquiry in Tasmania, with the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, with the NSW Department of Education, with the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing, and with Federal Minister for Social Services, Amanda Rishworth.

AFA continues to be represented on a number of 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, Elder Rights Advocacy and Older Persons Advocacy Network.



APRIL 2023 FORUM

The Board met with Associate and Affiliate members face to face twice, including a very productive Forum held in Brisbane in April 2023.

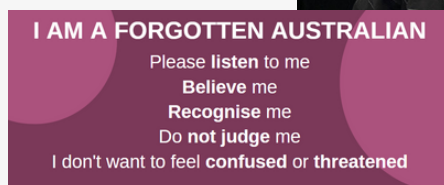
The Forum commenced with a gathering at Lotus Place, the Queensland support service for Forgotten Australians, hosting a lunch and discussion with local Forgotten Australians and Lotus Place staff. This was a very rich exchange and demonstrated how Forgotten Australians face similar issues and struggles no matter where they live across the country.

The AFA members expressed their thanks for the hospitality of Lotus Place as well as the connection they felt to others who had similar experiences in childhood.

The points raised by those attending the discussion have been used by AFA in our ongoing work championing the needs of Forgotten Australians.



2022-23 ADVOCACY



Have you heard of FORGOTTEN AUSTRALIANS?

Did you know there were approximately 500,000 Australian children separated from their families up until 1990?

Did you know these children often experienced brutality, neglect, denial of basic human rights, physical, emotional & sexual abuse?

Did you know as a result of what happened, these children as adults experience issues including trauma, anxiety, physical & mental illness & family breakdown?

***This is a hidden part of Australian history ...
Forgotten Australians are part of your history.***

SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE

SCAN ME

www.forgottenaustralians.org.au

AFA members are actively engaged in advocacy to raise awareness and drive changes for Forgotten Australians.

In 2022-23, members have participated in a range of activities including:

- National Redress Scheme Roundtable
- National Archives of Australia - Conversation on the contribution of National Apologies to Australian society
- Launch of the National Aged and Community Care Roundtable for Forgotten Australians website
- Meetings with Department of Social Services, Department of Health (Aged Care), Minister Rishworth's office, Department of Families, Fairness & Housing (Victoria), Where to Research (on behalf of Department of Health)
- National Aged and Community Care Roundtable for Forgotten Australians
- Older Person's Advocacy Network
- National Archives of Australia
- Forgotten Australians Information Card
- Forgotten Australians Awareness Poster

GOVERNANCE

BOARD (FROM DECEMBER 2023)

Chair	Caroline Carroll OAM	Forgotten Australian Vic
Deputy Chair	Gordon Hill	Forgotten Australian WA
	Allan Allaway	Forgotten Australian Qld
	David Henderson	Forgotten Australian Tas
	Daryl Higgins	Forgotten Australian NSW
	Heather May	Forgotten Australian NT
	Jan Schaffarz	Forgotten Australian SA
	Karyn Walsh	Independent member, Qld

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

AFA has always had a strong relationship with State-based support services for Forgotten Australians. This continues with formal affiliate membership of AFA held by all Find & Connect Services across the country.

Reg Casley	Lanterns WA
Le-ella Doyle	Early Intervention Services Tas
Luci Lovelock	Elm Place SA
Michelle McDonald	Open Place Vic
Darcy Orr	Micah Projects Qld
Taylah Peters	Adult Specialist Support Services NT
Yvonne Porter	Wattle Place NSW

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Suzanne Burke	Forgotten Australian WA
Maree Holt	Forgotten Australian Vic



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

Alliance for Forgotten Australians Ltd is funded through a funding agreement with the Department of Social Services

BOARD ATTENDANCE

	July 2022	Oct 2022	Nov 2022 (FORUM)	Dec 2022 (AGM)	Jan 2023	Mar 2023	April 2023 (FORUM)	June 2023
Allan Allaway								
Caroline Carroll								
Reg Casley								
David Henderson								
Daryl Higgins								
Gordon Hill								
Heather May								
Michelle McDonald								
Yvonne Porter								
Jan Schaffarz								
Pamella Vernon								
Karyn Walsh								

KEY

	Not Applicable
	Attended
	Apology



ALLIANCE FOR
**FORGOTTEN
AUSTRALIANS**

PATRON

The Hon Jennifer Coate AO

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