Grandcarers SA

Chairperson's Report 2026

It is my privilege, as Chairperson of the Board, to present the Grandcarers SA Annual Chairperson's Report for 2025–2026.

This has been another significant year for Grandcarers SA, marked by growth, greater recognition and increased financial security. As I present my final report as Chairperson, I am proud of the progress we have made and the strong foundations now in place for the organisation's next chapter.

Services and Impact

Grandcarers SA now supports more than 1,000 registered clients caring for about 2,000 children across South Australia. Our Villages, individual support, information and referral services, workshops and community activities continue to provide practical assistance and connection for informal kinship carers.

Our Education and Development Fund continues to make a very tangible difference to children in kinship care, helping them access educational, sporting and developmental opportunities they may otherwise miss.

We are particularly grateful to the RALI Foundation, a primary supporter of the Fund since 2020. Through this partnership, more than 500 children have now received assistance. We sincerely thank Ralph and Alison Stagg for their generosity and longstanding commitment to Grandcarers SA and the children we support.

Funding and Partnerships

One of the most important developments this year has been the South Australian Government's commitment of an additional $340,000 over four years, increasing our annual government grant to $300,000 per annum, indexed.

This represents important recognition of the needs of informal kinship carers and the value of the work undertaken by Grandcarers SA, while providing greater certainty for our organisation.

We are also delighted that the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation has committed funding to support Grandcarers SA's operations for the next three years. Longer-term philanthropic partnerships such as this provide invaluable stability and help us maintain and develop essential services.

We thank the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation, the RALI Foundation and all our government, philanthropic and community partners for their continuing confidence and support.

Advocacy

Advocacy remains a defining role of Grandcarers SA. Our CEO and Board have continued to engage with Ministers, Members of Parliament, government departments and other stakeholders to improve recognition and support for informal kinship carers.

Our priorities continue to include appropriate financial support, reform of the Carer Recognition framework and greater recognition of the enormous contribution informal kinship carers make to South Australia. While progress has been made, there is more to do, and Grandcarers SA will continue to be a strong voice for greater equity, recognition and practical support.

Board and Governance

Good governance has remained a priority, and this year we welcomed **Ms Jane Carey, the Hon. John Gardner and Mr Nikunj Mandlas** to the Board.

Together they bring diverse and complementary skills across business, governance, public policy, technology, strategy and organisational change, further strengthening the Board as Grandcarers SA enters its next phase.

This year we also farewell our hardworking Secretary, **Dr Sandra Egege**. Sandra has made an outstanding contribution, particularly to strengthening our governance practices, and I thank her personally for her professionalism, commitment and support to me and the Board.

At our AGM, I will be stepping down as Chairperson. It has been an enormous privilege to serve in this role and to work alongside such dedicated Board members, staff and volunteers, all united by a commitment to supporting grandcarers and kinship carers across South Australia.

Good leadership also means planning for succession and knowing when the time is right to make way for new leadership. I am therefore very pleased that the Hon John Gardner will be stepping into the role of Chairperson and bringing his experience, commitment and perspective to Grandcarers SA.

While I will be relinquishing the responsibilities of Chair, I have decided to remain on the Board for a further 12 months in the informal role of Immediate Past Chairperson. I believe this will provide valuable continuity and help ensure a smooth and successful handover of responsibilities, relationships and organisational knowledge.

I look forward to supporting John as he takes on the role, while allowing him the space to lead the organisation in his own way. I will also continue to support Mike, my fellow Board members and the broader Grandcarers SA team during this period of transition.

Grandcarers SA

Grandcarers SA is an organisation very close to my heart. I am immensely proud of what we have achieved together and grateful for the trust placed in me as Chairperson. Although this marks the end of one chapter for me, it is not yet a farewell.

Thanks and Looking Forward

I particularly acknowledge our CEO, **Michael Feszczak**, whose energy, leadership and advocacy continue to raise the profile of Grandcarers SA and the people we represent. My sincere thanks also go to our staff, volunteers, Village facilitators, donors, funders and community for everything they contribute, including our past Patrons, **Her Excellency the Hon. Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia** and **Mr Rod Bunten** and our Ambassadors, **Mrs Lan Le OAM and Ms Jane Reilly OAM**, and thank them for their continued support.

I wish Grandcarers SA every success as it enters its next chapter from a position of increasing strength and recognition and as it continues expanding its reach, strengthening its services and advocating for all “grandcarers” in SA.

Kathryn House AM DSJ
Chairperson, Grandcarers SA
2026