



e-News from the FCAV/PPSS Carer Help Line



Training opportunities for FCAV Members!

Earlier this year FCAV postponed the State Carer's Conference due to low registration numbers. At the time, we sought feedback from members on what you wanted to see as part of any future conference. The overwhelming response was, "we want training on how to help traumatised and attachment effected children in out of home care!"

In response to this feedback, FCAV has decided to make available 2 metropolitan and 6 regionally based training opportunities over the next 6 or 7 months in lieu of one State Conference (see the FCAV website for the regional training workshop schedule), thus allowing all members across Victoria an opportunity to attend local (or at least reasonably local!) training workshops.

We are kicking off this great initiative with two metropolitan training opportunities with Dr. Dave Ziegler. The first opportunity is a full day workshop to be held in Melbourne on Thursday 26 November 2009, and the second event is an evening workshop to be held on Tuesday 1 December 2009.

FCAV are thrilled to announce that we can sponsor 30 tickets to each of these training events, allowing 60 lucky carers to attend free of charge. To register for either event, please contact FCAV on 9489 9770 or via email to admin@fcav.org and we will organise your registration and payment.



Proudly present: A Day with Dr. Dave Ziegler

COST	DATE & TIME	VENUE
\$125 plus GST Foster/kinship/permanent carers - \$95 plus GST	Registration : 9.00am Seminar: 9.30am to 4.00pm Thursday 26 November 2009	The Treacy Centre 126 The Avenue, Parkville

The Science of Success in Working with Difficult Children

The goal of this training is to take some of the most critically important findings of research and translate them into understandable and useful approaches to our work. Participants will leave with new tools to immediately put into practice. This training is for everyone from the beginner to the expert: for Protective Workers, Case Managers, Team Leaders, Residential Workers, Foster, Kinship and Permanent Carers, Teachers and Teacher's Aids. The seminar will address complex issues and present practical applications creating a broader understanding of the psychological, physical and spiritual needs of children who have experienced trauma and broken attachments.

An Evening with Dr. Dave Ziegler

COST	DATE & TIME	VENUE
\$35 plus GST Foster/kinship/permanent carers - \$35 plus GST	6.30pm Tuesday 1 December 2009	The Treacy Centre 126 The Avenue, Parkville

Mission Impossible (if you choose to accept it) Understanding & Helping the Child in Foster Care

This seminar for carers will cover such topics as:

- ✓ Advanced parenting methods
- ✓ How foster children think
- ✓ How to care for a child who does not care back
- ✓ The essential steps to meet the child's needs – The Building Blocks of effective foster care
- ✓ The impact on the child of losing their birth home
- ✓ Parenting interventions that work
- ✓ Avoiding burnout and maintaining your energy

News from the FCAV/PPSS Carer Help Line

Dr. Dave Ziegler

Dr. Dave Ziegler, Ph.D., L.M.F.T., L.P.C., is a Licensed Psychologist, Executive Director and Organisation Founder of Jasper Mountain, Oregon USA, with a 37 year career as a therapist, clinical supervisor, foster parent and program manager. International authority and presenter on issues related to trauma and psychological treatment, Dave has authored multiple books and publications including "Raising children who refuse to be raised", "Traumatic experience and the brain", "Beyond healing" and "Achieving success with impossible children".

FCAV Snap Shot News – What's happening at FCAV?

It's very hectic in the office lately, with staff and students actively involved in many different working groups and projects. The following is a quick snap shot of how we are going with some key projects and initiatives:

Bushfire prevention plans and procedures – FCAV Board Director, Karen Dobby is representing the FCAV Membership on the current DHS-run workshop looking at bushfire safety strategies in the lead up to the Victoria bushfire season. We will release detailed information via the FCAV website once it is available, but in the meantime, liaise with your agency if you have any queries or concerns around bushfire prevention and emergency procedures.

Kinship Care Model – DHS has advised that the Kinship Care Model will be rolled out across Victoria through all regions by the end of 2009. Additional funding has been allocated to ensure the roll out of this model.

Kinship Care Peak Body – To ensure kinship carers, both statutory and non-statutory are effectively represented and advocated for, work is underway to develop a kinship care peak body. Funding is being sought from DHS to enable the immediate establishment of this body.

Kinship Care Research Project – The University of Melbourne in conjunction with the Alfred Felton Research Project are preparing to launch a research project - *Family Links: kinship care and family contact*. The project will consist of two strands and will be distributed to all statutory kinship carers: Strand 1 will involve identifying patterns and trends in family contact arrangements via a survey of kinship carers, while Strand 2 will explore the issues arising from the survey in more depth, and in particular to hear the perspectives of children and young people and their mothers and fathers. We would encourage all kinship carers to participate in this important research.

Fact Sheets Progress – 'Being prepared for a new foster care placement' has been signed off, the 'Leaving care – Skills' and 'Quality of Care' facts sheets are in the final consultation phase and work has commenced on the 'Permanent Care', 'Building & Maintaining Effective Working Relationships' and 'Court Orders & Procedures' fact sheets. Completed fact sheets are available via the website and draft fact sheets can be accessed via the office at admin@fcav.org or 9489 9770.

Specialised In Home Care – This new initiative will see 100 specialised carers recruited to care for children aged under 12 years who currently reside in residential care. These carers are paid a 'wage' and will need to meet the necessary qualification criteria in order to undertake this role. Katie has been attending this working group and has advised that work is progressing well, while also raising interesting questions within the sector around placement funding.

FCAV Website Development – This work is well underway and we are looking forward to launching our sensational new website at our AGM on 27 November 2009.

FCAV / PPSS Carer Help Line – Changes are coming to the Help Line, including a name change! Keep an eye on the website and also in our December Newsletter for further information.

Daar Aasya Muslim Foster Care Program – This great initiative is run through Mercy Mission and has been established to raise awareness, to work with partner agencies to recruit Muslim foster carers and to educate non-Muslim foster carers and foster care agency staff about the particular religious and cultural needs of Muslim foster children. To learn more go to www.daaraasya.org.au and check out the article in our December Newsletter.

Call for Research participants – Gay and Lesbian Caring – Dr. Damien Riggs of Flinders University in Adelaide is looking to interview Australian gay or lesbian carers and foster care agency workers who have some involvement with gay and lesbian carers. For further information, or to be involved, please contact Damien Riggs: damien.riggs@flinders.edu.au.

CREATE Christmas Party – The CREATE Christmas Party is set for Saturday 5 December, but only Club CREATE members and their families can attend. If a child in your care wishes to join Club CREATE go to www.create.org.au or call 9918 0002.

Permanent Carers – We have received a lot of calls of late, and we know you guys are doing an incredibly difficult job without a lot of support. Please know we are thinking of you and we are making sure the issues you are raising are being heard.....hang in there!!

FCAV AGM: A Family Event – The AGM will be held on Friday 27 November at Northcote Town Hall, 189 High St, Northcote. Refreshments will be available from 5.30pm, guest speaker Bernie Geary, Child Safety Commissioner will speak from 6.30pm and the formal procedures kick off at 7pm.