



e-News from the FCAV/PPSS Carer Information & Support Service July 2010 edition



Welcome to the July edition of e-News. Here is an update of some key events and current activities.

Training opportunities for carers

Great News! There are training opportunities everywhere for carers of children and young people in care. Check out the following events coming your way:

FCAV and Prime Consulting are proud to partner and present a two day conference. Hold the date and watch for further information on our website and in the next FCAV newsletter.

Conference: The Good, the Bad & the Ugly: fostering the practice of care
Dates: 27 and 28 October 2010.
Location: The Treacy Centre, 126 The Avenue, Parkville.
Cost : For carers: \$121 (for 1 day) or \$322 (for 2 day) (GST inclusive)

FCAV eMember Bonus: Be one of the first 75 FCAV member carers to register and receive free registration to attend the conference. Contact conferenceregistration@primefocusconsulting.com.au to register for the event or phone 03-9415-6066 for more information.

FCAV Regional Seminars in Geelong and Ballarat as follows:

Seminar 1 : Mad, Bad or Sad? The Practice of Care.
Dr. Gregory Nicolau will explore the real reasons behind children's behaviour and intervention strategies tailored for success
Date: 26 August 2010.
Location: The Newcomb Library, Corner of Wilson's Road & Bellarine Highway, Newcomb.
Morning tea and lunch provided
Costs: Free to all carers and staff of Community Connections Geelong, Glastonbury and MacKillop Family Services. \$45 for all other participants.
RSVP: by 12 August 2010 to Reception at Mackillop Family Services at 03-5278-9211 or Glastonbury at 03-5222-6911 or Community Connections at 1300-361-680.

Seminar 2 : Mad, Bad or Sad? The practice of care.
Dr. Gregory Nicolau will explore the real reasons behind children's behaviour and intervention strategies tailored for success
Date: 1 September 2010.
Location: Ballarat Leagues Club at Saxon House, City Oval 1431 Main Street, Ballarat.
Morning tea and lunch provided
Costs: Free to all carers and staff of Child and Family Services, Ballarat Aboriginal Co-op and Lisa Lodge.
RSVP: by 25 August 2010 to Christina Fay at cfay@cafs.org.au or phone her at 03-5337-3333.

Other events that may be of interest to you.

Seminar 3 : Transforming Childhood Trauma: connecting with empathy and compassion.
Dr. Bruce Perry will explore the negative impact of chaos, threat, traumatic stress abuse and neglect on children and explores concepts of empathy and compassion in relation to physical and mental health and an ability to form and sustain loving and healthy relationships.
Date: 8 September 2010.
Location: Contact Berry Street for further details at 03-9429-9266 or email trainingevents@berrystreet.org.au or visit www.berrystreet.org.au
Costs: \$240 if registered by 30 July 2010. \$280 after that date. (See competition opportunity below)

Conference: Supporting Kinship Families
Building on the achievements of last year's inaugural event, this conference will address a range of issues such as the latest trends in support for kinship carers in Australia and overseas, the development of the new model to support kinship carers in Victoria and the power of family conferencing.
Date: 7 & 8 October 2010
Location: Clocktower Centre, Junction Mt. Alexander and Pascoe Vale Roads, Moonee Ponds
Costs: To be confirmed, but costs will be minimal for kinship carers to attend.
For more information contact Anne McLeish at 03-93722-422 or email at director@grandparents.com.au

FCAV Competition

FCAV is sponsoring six places (conference registrations only) to attend Dr Bruce Perry's seminar on 8 September 2010 (see details above). To win one of these places, submit by email, in 100 words or less why you think you should attend. Please include your agency contact details, and send your submission to admin@fcav.org.au on or before the 3 August 2010. Winners will be notified in mid August.

Good Luck!



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2010–2011 Carer Reimbursement Rates

The 2010-2011 Carer Reimbursement Rates have been increased and these rates can be found on our website under Carer Resources at <http://www.fcav.org.au/careresources/rates>

Launch of A Victorian charter supporting people in care relationships and launch of Victorian Carer Card

23 June 2010 saw Minister Neville do a double launch. A **Victorian charter supporting people in care relationships** and the **Carer Card Program** were launched.

A copy of the Charter will come out with your Aug FCAV newsletter, but as a taster here are some highlights ... A **Victorian charter supporting people in care relationships** acknowledges that "carers and the people they care for are the basis of the care relationship. If the relationship is strong, the carer and the person being cared for are more likely to live as well as possible."

As a carer, you can expect to:

- ◆ Be respected for who you are as a person
- ◆ Be respected as someone with special knowledge of the person being cared for
- ◆ Have a say in and be respected for the decisions you help make about care
- ◆ Be recognized for important things you do that help the whole community
- ◆ Be supported in your role as carer and as someone with your own needs
- ◆ Continue to be supported if the care relationship changes

For more info about the Carer Card Program and what discounts you will be able to access call 1800 901958 or visit www.carercard.vic.gov.au

Leaving Care Help Line

The launch of the Leaving Care Help Line is scheduled for 22 July 2010.

The Leaving Care Helpline contact number is 1300-532-846 and it is available from 10 am—8 pm weekdays, 1 am—6 pm weekends and public holidays. If you are 16-21 years of age and leaving, or have left out of home care in Victoria, the Leaving Care Helpline can connect you with local services for: accommodation support, legal advice, financial assistance, and Centrelink and counselling. At the launch, a kit will also be distributed which will include information for young people, carers, case planners and case managers. Stay tuned for more information coming your way soon.

National Standards for out-of-home-care — draft

On 7 July 2010, Jenny Macklin, MP Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, released draft national standards to safeguard the health, safety and wellbeing of children living in foster homes and other formal out-of-home care across Australia.

These standards mean Government will work together to strengthen out-of-home care for children across Australia. Currently, child protection systems vary markedly across the country with each State and Territory having its own child protection policy, standards and legislation. Out-of-home care standards will provide a national benchmark for the care of children who are no longer with their parents, no matter where they live. To get a copy of the draft standards you can go to http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/families/pubs/Documents_working_doc_dev_nat_stdts_for_out_of_home_care.pdf or ask FCAV to email or post you a copy.

Rainbow Hair for Foster Care



September is Foster Care Month, and 'rainbow hair for foster care' is a fun way to celebrate the exceptional volunteers who give their time to be important in the life of a child, and something the entire community can share.

Free rainbow hairclips will be available at various locations around Victoria shortly. In late August, visit www.fosterabrighterfuture.com.au to find where you can collect your 'rainbow hair' or call the Foster Care Hotline at 1800-013-088 for more information.

PS

...Don't forget to enter our **competition** to attend Dr Bruce Perry's seminar on 8 September 2010 (See over for details).
...And remember the first 75 members that register to attend FCAV conference (in partnership with Prime Consulting) on 27 & 28 October 2010 will gain **free registration** to the conference (see over for details)