



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



Welcome to the March edition of e-News. We have changed the reporting timelines for the FCAV/PPSS Carer Information & Support Service to quarterly, so look out for our latest stats in next month's Newsletter. In the mean time, check out what's happening in the world of home based care.....

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:

The **Australian Childhood Foundation** is hosting the following seminars for professionals, carers and others involved in supporting children and young people recovering from trauma. The seminars will be conducted by **Richard Rose**, a social worker, author and Director of the Mary Walsh Institute in the UK.

Seminar 1: [Life Story Work with Traumatized Children](#)

10th May, 2010 at Sofitel on Collins, 25 Collins St, Melbourne

Costs: \$260-\$300 (GST Inclusive)

Seminar 2 : [Building a Successful Approach to Therapeutic Residential Care for Traumatized Children and Young People](#)

11th May, 2010 at Sofitel on Collins, 25 Collins St, Melbourne

Costs: \$260-\$300 (GST Inclusive)

(Discounts exists for those attending both days)

The **Australian Childhood Foundation** is also hosting the following seminar for professionals, carers and others involved in supporting children and young people recovering from trauma. The seminar will be conducted by **Dr Dan Siegel**, clinical professor of psychiatry at the UCLA School of Medicine.

Seminar: [Beyond Survival: Using recent developments in the practices of interpersonal neurobiology to promote enduring recovery from violence related trauma.](#)

22nd October, 2010 at Sofitel on Collins, 25 Collins St, Melbourne.

Costs: \$260—\$300 (GST Inclusive)

For more information on the timelines for registration costs and registration forms along with details of additional training opportunities for professionals in the field of trauma related therapy, go to the **Australian Childhood Foundation** website www.childhood.org.au .

Voice and Movement assist students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. **Voice and Movement** are conducting the following free professional development seminar and information evening for health and teaching professionals, parents and carers :

Topic: [Encouraging Eye Contact through Role Play and Drama Games \(a brief overview\)](#)

Thursday 11th March, 2010 from 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start (concluding at 8.30pm) at 34A Hamilton St, Mont Albert, 3127 (*above the fruit shop*).

To register, please call 9890 0728 or email to info@voiceandmovement.com.au .

If you are unable to attend, please call to arrange for a free presentation of the Drama for Everyday Life program.

FCAV Regional Seminars

19th April, 2010 Barwon South West – Hosted by Community Connections and Brophy in Warrnambool.

21st April, 2010 Grampians Region – Hosted by Wimmera Uniting Care in Horsham

Holiday program opportunity for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders

The Holiday Program conducted by **Voice and Movement** aims to teach social skills and self confidence in a fun and relaxed way. All classes include fun, social skills based games and exercises and result in a short presentation for parents. Classes are held over three days at the times specified below, and spaces are limited so make sure you book in early!

Wednesday 7th, Thursday 8th and Friday 9th April, 2010

10.30am –12pm	"Pirates, Parrots and Sunken Treasure"	(5-7yrs)
	Pesky pirates and pretty parrots work together to discover underwater treasure.	
1pm—2.30pm	"Dragons and Dinosaurs Become Friends"	(8-11yrs)
	Dragons and dinosaurs become friends as they save the world from an evil monster.	
3pm—4.30pm	"Bushrangers, Bunyips and Cute Koalas"	(8-11yrs)
	Students learn about friendship in the Aussie Outback.	
3pm-4.30pm	"Thank Goodness You're Here!"	(12yrs+)
	Students participate in fun improvisation and theatre sports games	

Fees: \$35 per session (eg \$105 for 3 sessions or \$70 for 2 sessions). Please call **Voice and Movement** on 9890 0728 or visit the website at www.voiceandmovement.com.au to register for the holiday program or for any further information.



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Snap Shot News—What's happening at the Foster Care Association of Victoria?

As always, it's all happening in the office. We have been busy re-organising the office, hosting focus groups and assisting carers in meetings, over the phone and in court. Here's an update on some key projects happening in and around the FCAV:

Continuing carer payments for young people over 18 years of age enrolled in school

Advice has been circulated to DHS regional Placement and Support Managers advising that the Acting Assistant Director, Placement & Support is prepared to accept requests from CSO's for: *the reinstatement of carer reimbursements for carers in receipt of reimbursements under the current policy in 2009, who still have the same young people residing with them in 2010, and for whom these young people are currently secondary education attending.* Under these interim arrangements pending broader consultation on the proposed policy changes, eligible carers will continue to receive the payment they were in receipt of in 2009 for the length of the 2010 school year, back-dated to 19 December, 2009 when payments ceased.

FCAV/PPSS Carer Needs and Satisfaction Survey

The FCAV April Newsletter will include a Carer Needs and Satisfaction Survey, which we hope all carers will complete. The survey is being conducted by both FCAV and the Post Placement Support Service, and will go a long way to informing us, and the home-based care sector of the ongoing service needs for carers and professionals across Victoria. The survey will need to be completed online so if you don't have access to the internet let us know and we can assist you over the phone.

Victorian Law Reform Commission

As we mentioned in last month's newsletter, the Victorian Law Reform Commission have asked FCAV to assist in the gathering of carer experiences and feedback as part of a review of the Victorian Children's Court. The focus group conducted on the 25th of February was great and we are hoping to see more carers at the last focus group now scheduled for 2pm to 4pm on Wednesday March 10th, 2010. FCAV Vice President, Tracey Cocks will have a FCAV report finished and submitted to the Law Reform Commission by 1st April, 2010. If you would like to share your experience but are unable to attend the session on March 10th, please call the office on 9489 9770 and we can take down your comments and feedback.

National Standards for Out of Home Care **ALL CARERS WELCOME!**

The Australian Government, through the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), together with State and Territory governments and the non-government sector, is developing National Standards for Out of Home Care. Consultations regarding the '[National Standards for Out of Home Care Consultation Paper](#)', released in January 2010 are now being held: Consultation 18th March— Panorama Room, Flemington Racecourse, 448 Epsom Rd, Flemington, 11am-1.30pm
Consultation 19th March— Best Western Tudor Hotel, 1101 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill, 11am to 1.30pm

National Foster Carers Conference

The 2010 National Foster Carers Conference is being held from 27th - 29th of August at the Wrest Point Casino, Hobart. Don't forget to send in your 'Pick Me' entry submission for a chance to win a return flight to Tassie and 2 night's accommodation along with registration to the conference thanks to FCAV. Entries close Friday 30th April, 2010. For further details refer to [last month's newsletter](#) or visit our [website](#).

Kinship Care Update

All 19 service providers have now been identified for the state wide roll out of the Kinship Care Model. Next month's FCAV Newsletter will include a comprehensive look at the Model, including details of all 19 providers, timelines for regional roll outs and a thorough outline of the services being offered under the new Model to kinship carers in your region.

Continuing support for Victoria's bushfire victims

As part of the ongoing bushfire recovery plan, the Victorian Department of Health has been working with *Mindful*—centre for training and research in development health. This collaboration has seen the development and release of fact sheets relating to trauma in children from newborns through to pre-school age. Work is continuing on fact sheets for trauma and children from 5yrs through to 18 yrs. These fact sheets can be viewed on the [Better Health Channel on the DHS and Dept of Health websites](#).

Also, for young people who experienced the bushfires is [Your Bushfire Space](#), developed through [headspace](#), Australia's National Youth Mental Health Foundation.

More training opportunities for carers

START presents "[Grief & Loss—Finding Hope When all Feels Lost](#)"

Children who have been removed from their families arrive in care with very mixed emotions. These emotions if not expressed or understood can cause deep pain and ill health.

Venue: The Treacy Centre, 126 The Avenue, Parkville
Date: Friday 16th April, 2010 from 9.30am to 12.30pm
Cost: \$65 per person (GST inclusive. Includes morning tea and lunch)



Check the [START Training Calendar](#) for further training opportunities.

Key dates in the Indigenous calendar for 2010

22 May **The Long Walk**

A charity day inspired by Michael Long's walk to Canberra to get the lives of indigenous people back on the national agenda.

26 May **National Sorry Day**

The *Bringing them home* report (BTH Report) recommended a National Sorry Day be held each year on 26 May "to commemorate the history of forcible removals and its effects". This recommendation resulted in the forming of the community based organisation the National Sorry Day Committee (NSDC).