

Cultural Carer Forums 2018



VACCA
Connected by culture

The Foster Care Association of Victoria (FCAV), in partnership with VACCA, hosted three cultural carer forums with a focus on learning about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, history and culture.

The events provided an opportunity for foster carers and children to come together, network and connect in a fun and interactive way whilst being involved in a rich cultural experience.

In January 2018 we hosted a **Spiritual Healing Walk** at Darebin Parklands. Carers from across the state and the children in their care (24 attendees) enjoyed a walk, listening to Uncle Trevor promote emotional and spiritual well-being and a sense of being connected to the land.



Emma & Gina from VACCA assist us to host the Spiritual healing trail at Darebin Parklands, January 2018.



Uncle Trevor guides foster carers and the children in their care on the spiritual healing trail at Darebin parklands, January 2018



In February 2018 we hosted **Cultural Learning Morning Tea** at Healesville Sanctuary. 23 carers and children attended and had an incredible day, the highlight was being in the company of Murrundindi, elder and head man (Ngurungaeta) of the Wurundjeri people, as he shared stories of his life and culture.

Murrundindi is passionate about sharing Wurundjeri culture, which he demonstrated by playing the didgeridoo, showing us his possum skin cloak, boomerang throwing, singing traditional songs in his language, having a yarn about his life and family history, and telling us about significant flora and fauna around us.





Murrundindi shows carers his possum skin cloak at Healesville Sanctuary, February, 2018.

In April 2018 we hosted a **Cultural Learning Morning Tea** at CERES Environmental Park, with a morning tea and smoking ceremony with Wurundjeri elder, Ian Hunter.

It was a beautiful autumn day bringing 43 carers with young children. The carers welcomed the opportunity to have an event held on the weekend with a focus on cultural knowledge and learning. Wurundjeri elder Ian Hunter provided rich information about many aspects of the local area and Aboriginal culture. The children loved the sound of the didgeridoo as well as painting on canvas. Many women talked to staff and each other as they had their hands massaged and experienced a little pampering. It was a fabulous day in a magnificent setting.



Ian Hunter begins the smoking ceremony, using native plants, CERES April 2018.



The children paint on canvas with oil paints and ochre, CERES April 2018.



The Foster Care Association of Victoria operates on the lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respect to their Elders, past and present, and to all the traditional custodians of land throughout Victoria.