



Quarter two | 2019



- NAIDOC Week
- Cultural Day
- Deadly Story

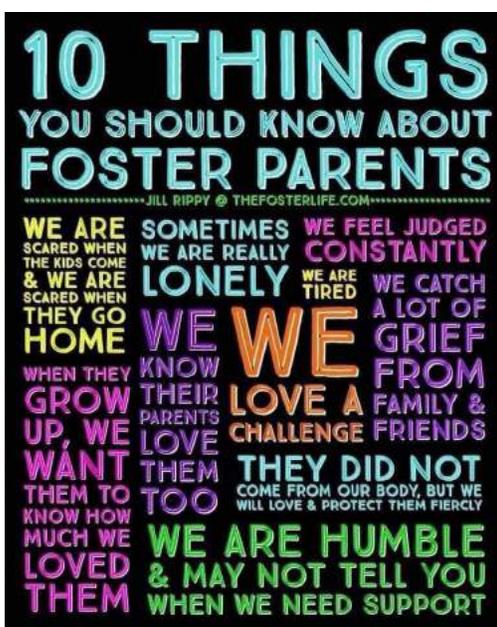


Carer Information and Support Service:

The Foster Care Association of Victoria's Carer Information and Support Service (CISS) provides a confidential, independent support hotline to all foster carers in Victoria. Are you a current foster carer? Do you have questions about your role? Are you having issues you need to discuss with someone?

Call **9416 4292** or access carer support online:
www.fcav.org.au

Cover Image: FCAV held a Cultural Day at McCrae Lighthouse in April which was attended by over 90 participants, carers and children alike and included arts and dance taught by Cassie Leatham, a proud Taungurung Wurundjeri woman. See more overleaf ...



Left: We lifted this from Queensland Foster Care and it resonated with our facebook friends!



FCAV is funded through the State Government of Victoria and is grateful for the support of agency subscribers and our generous donors.

This newsletter is produced quarterly by the Foster Care Association of Victoria to provide information and support to Victoria's foster carers.

To view past editions please visit our website at: www.fcav.org.au/newsletters



FCAV is grateful for the continuing support of the Cummins team who donate in kind to the mailout of this newsletter



MESSAGE

from the CEO

I'm taking this opportunity to notify you all as valued members that after 10 years as Chief Executive Officer at the Foster Care Association I've advised the Board this month that I intend to step away from the role and start thinking about what's next for me.

The Board will be recruiting into the CEO position and we will give you updates as they come to hand. This advice doesn't mean we are slowing down on our advocacy and reform work. I remain committed to the continuing work of the Association with DHHS on the Carer Strategy. It is intended that this part of Minister Donnellan's reform work will focus on improvements for carers and children in their care and I will remain involved in this process until such time as a handover can take place.

We are also working on how we can work in a more collaborative way for kinship and permanent carers. It is not goodbye from me just yet so stay tuned for updates on these actions.

I'd like to thank Justin Mohamed, Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, for his contribution to this edition of the newsletter on the significance of giving voice to Aboriginal children and young people in care and the work that needs to be done to get there.

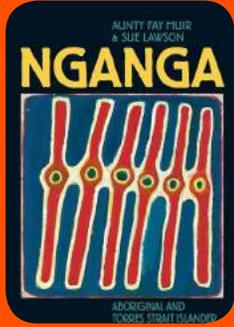
Katie Hooper,
Chief Executive Officer, Foster Care Association of Victoria

In brief...

- **New financial support information for carers** - A new fact sheet for foster and kinship carers about Additional Child Care Subsidy (child wellbeing) is available on the departmental website under 'Resources' on this page: <http://services.dhhs.vic.gov.au/support-home-based-carers-victoria>
- Please find enclosed in this newsletter your household's **Call for Nominations** form and **Formal Invitation** to the FCAV Annual General Meeting and Carer Celebration, in the lead up to Foster Care Week 2019.
- **Foster Care Week is 8-14 September 2019.** Check out the FCAV website for the growing **Calendar of Events** celebrating foster carers this year: www.fcav.org.au/news-events/foster-care-week-2019/event/122
- Have you signed your child up to the **Premier's Reading Challenge?** We have until September to complete the reading with awards and encouragement on the website: www.education.vic.gov.au/about/events/prc
- Victorian Protecting Children's Awards nominations have now closed and winners will be announced at the gala awards night during Child Protection Week 1-7 September 2019. For more information visit <http://dhhs.vic.gov.au/protectingchildrenawards>

CARER GIVEAWAYS! ENTER NOW TO WIN...

NAIDOC WEEK COMPETITION!



NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. The week is a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Visit the NAIDOC Week website to find out more: www.naidoc.org.au

In recognition of NAIDOC Week we have 8 copies of the book **Nganga: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Words and Phrases** to give away!

Competition Question: What is the theme of the 2019 NAIDOC Week and why is it significant?

To be in the running to win, please email competition@fcav.org.au or call 9416 4292 by Friday 7th June and include your name, phone, address, agency, and most importantly your answer to the question above for each prize! Please include which competition you are entering in the subject line of your email (NAIDOC or ZOO). Good Luck!

A DAY AT THE ZOO!

Have you ever had a close up encounter with a wild animal?

We have a family zoo pass & \$300 travel costs to give away!

This prize is valid for a day trip to either Melbourne Zoo, Werribee Zoo or Healesville Sanctuary and includes free entry to the zoo for your family and up to \$300 reimbursed for travel, food and activities on the day!



Competition Question: How would you like to spend the day at the zoo if you won this prize?

CARING FOR CARERS PROGRAM



Above: Carers with Katie at the Retreat in Inverloch in March and some of the mindful artwork produced. Carers, Uncle Lionel, VACCA and CISS team members at the McCrae Lighthouse cultural walk in April

Cultural Carer and Children's Day out at McCrae Lighthouse

In partnership with VACCA, we gathered on the beautiful foreshore of McCrae beach on Thursday 11th April with approximately 90 carers, children and young people as well as family members and workers from agencies across Victoria to celebrate Aboriginal culture.

Cassie Leatham, a Taungurung and Wurundjeri woman, led a welcome dance, as well as teaching basket weaving throughout the day. The kids and carers thoroughly enjoyed the art and craft activities of which they were able to take home.

We had the privilege to be joined by Uncle Lionel Lauch, a Gundiitmara Kirrae Wurrung-Bundjalung man, who took us all on a guided walk along the track, explaining the significance of the local area, showing us bush tucker and medicine along the way. Everyone came away with new knowledge!

At the end of the day Uncle Lionel conducted an amazing healing meditation using the Yidaki, which traditionally plays the didgeridoo sound. As he played, the children, young people and adults all lay back on the grass and settled. Except for the sound of the sea, all was quiet and at that point the sun came out to warm us whilst he played. It was the most wonderful meditation we all benefited from.

We were also lucky to be joined by the new Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, Justin Mohamed, who is a proud Aboriginal man of Gooreng Gooreng nation near Bundaberg, Queensland. Justin engaged in many of the activities and his presence was well received.

Carer Retreat - Inverloch

We held our 3rd Carer retreat at the RACV Club at Inverloch with 23 carers and 3 staff from FCAV – Katie Hooper, Tessa Hughes and Deb Collard on the weekend of 30th to 31st March.

Carers participated in training on emotional intelligence, self-care, enjoyed a mindful walk along the beach, joined the meditation sessions, had massages and were generally nurtured and cared for over the weekend. They took home a lovely gift as well, funded by Carer KafÉ.

The food was amazing, rooms beautiful and feedback included carers feeling more energised and inspired and that they were taking away new ideas to share with the children and young people in their care. Others said the weekend reinforced strategies that they had forgotten, and they felt revived and better able to cope when they returned home. The group was incredibly engaged and participated in all activities, able to spend time together socially in a very relaxed environment and add to their support networks.

Carer Information & Support Service

☎ 9416 4292

🌐 www.fcav.org.au

The **Carer Information and Support Service (CISS)** at the Foster Care Association of Victoria provides free, confidential and independent advice and advocacy for Victorian foster carers, covering all areas of foster care. You do not need to be a member of the Association to access CISS, however we recommend all foster carers become members to ensure you receive all the information, assistance and resources available to you.

If you would like more information, contact the CISS team 9am-5pm, Monday to Thursday and 9am-4.30pm on Friday: **9416 4292** or visit our website: www.fcav.org.au under Carer Resources to see the FCAV's range of Information Sheets. www.fcav.org.au/carers-support-service

INSIDE CISS SUPPORT: Correspondence

The **Carer Information Support Service** team at FCAV is an independent source of advocacy and support to carers, especially when they are facing difficult and drawn out situations. It is not unusual for a CISS team member to have months long involvement with a carer, and feedback from carers demonstrates the importance of their work in retaining carers in the system.

Where an Aboriginal child is currently in the care of a kinship or foster carer and the placement is supported by Child Protection or a non-Aboriginal foster care agency, opportunities for transferring placement and carer to an ACCO (Aboriginal Community Controlled Organization) foster or kinship care service will be explored and negotiated.

It is important that carers understand the principles behind these new changes and feel assured that new relationships with the ACCOs resulting from a transfer will provide support that is culturally appropriate to both the child and carer, with no disruption to the carer and child's relationship.

FCAV understands that for some carers this transition may seem daunting, particularly if they have had an existing relationship with an Agency over many years. For one carer however, who recently contacted FCAV'S CISS Team, her experience highlights

just how powerful this transition can be. Her comments were an endorsement that this can be a turning point for Aboriginal children in care, and their carer alike, in being offered a direct link to culture, supports and resources.

This carer added that what also made a difference, was the empathy and support of her case worker, who was both respectful and communicative but above all, a great advocate for the child. Both case worker and the carer were able to work collaboratively in advocating a positive outcome for the young person in her care, which kept him safe from bullying and harassment at school.

Collaboration and communication always seems like a productive partnership and CISS were so pleased to hear this good news story. We wish this family continued success, alongside their ACCO and we're here to support carers should you require more information.

Below: The CISS team received this heartfelt letter from some carers were they able to support recently ...

"We are writing this letter to you so that we can express our heartfelt gratitude for the caring and supportive representative and valued friend you have become. We have deliberately written this letter of thanks to you before any outcome is known. Your unwavering support and our gratitude for all you have done is most certainly separate to any decision that may be made.

From this first phone call you gave me reassurance, guidance, clear direction and most of all hope that we could once again care for out of home children.

There were a number of times along this 2 year journey that we felt we should just walk away and save ourselves the stress of it all. One phone call to you and we had our strength to continue once again. You have been my go-to person, my rock. Thank you once again."

Association for Children with a Disability



Association for Children with a Disability (ACD) is a not-for-profit organisation run by and for families of children with disability, including carer families, providing free advocacy, support and information to empower families and carers of children with any type of disability or

developmental delay, to achieve the best outcomes for their child.

Services include an advocacy support line, available to families five days a week during business hours, offering information and support on issues such as NDIS and schooling; workshops (hosted and promoted by schools, community centres and local government), for families and carers to develop skills and expand knowledge and confidence in areas such as NDIS introduction and pathway planning and starting career conversations with your child; and information resources, including a monthly online newsletter full of useful information, disability sector updates and news.

Dream Night

ACD also offers a low fee annual membership, which provides families with the opportunity to belong to a network of people with a shared understanding, to have a say on the issues affecting children with disability and the chance to attend free family fun events throughout the year. The most notable event is the annual Dream Night at Melbourne Zoo, which is an after-hours event especially for families of children with disability. It is a magical night of family fun, offering disability accessible animal keeper talks, entertainment and activities. Now in its third year, the event welcomes over 500 families to enjoy an inclusive evening of entertainment at a world class venue, free of charge.

Connect with ACD

To become a member www.acd.org.au/join-now

For information and support on any disability issue:

Phone: (03) 9880 7000 or 1800 654 013 (regional callers)

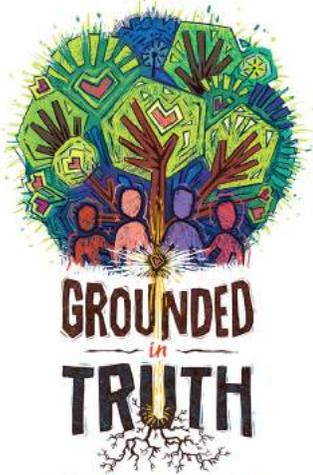
Text: 0484 687 494

Email: support@acd.org.au

Facebook: Follow us @acdvic

Website: www.acd.org.au

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2019
27 MAY – 3 JUNE



Over positive reconciliations, the relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians must be grounded in truth. Whether you're engaging in challenging conversations or simply acknowledging what you know, this journey requires all of us to walk together with courage.

Learn more at
reconciliation.org.au
#NRW2019



NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

27 MAY – 3 JUNE

What is National Reconciliation Week?

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

The dates for NRW remain the same each year; 27 May to 3 June. These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey—the successful 1967 referendum, and the High Court Mabo decision respectively.

Reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds and actions of all Australians as we move forward, creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships between the wider Australian community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

FCAV is undertaking an organisational Reconciliation Action Plan which celebrates its anniversary this May. The progress of our RAP can be found on the website at: www.fcav.org.au/about/rap

Melbourne Children's
A world leader in child and adolescent health



Supported by The Royal Children's Hospital Foundation

The Foster Care Association of Victoria was pleased to support an investigation by the Royal Children's Hospital and Murdoch Children's Research Institute into "Access to health for kids in care". Many of our members undertook an online survey and a good number also attended focus group discussions.

Dr Karen McLean of The Royal Children's Hospital, Murdoch Children's Research Institute & Department of Paediatrics, University of Melbourne, is leading the research and is pleased to present some initial findings which show Victorian foster and kinship carers report high levels of health service use for children and young people living in their care but mental health services are the most difficult to access. Most carers thought that mental health had not been well assessed. Specific barriers to improve access to health services include timely access to a Medicare number and financial support.

Read more findings here:
www.fcav.org.au/news/research-health-oohc

HOME STRETCH UPDATE



FCAV announced last November, the \$11.6 million pledge to roll out Home Stretch made by the Victorian Government prior to the 2018 election. FCAV is now able to pass on more detail about how that will be implemented.

Starting in the first half of 2019, over the next five years Home Stretch will support approximately 250 young people in care to make a more gradual and supported transition to independent living.

These 250 young people will be selected from the pool of young people in kinship or foster care who can select to stay with their carer up to the age of 21 years, supported by an allowance. Young people leaving residential care will be eligible to apply for this allowance to go towards housing costs up to 21 years of age.

Permanent care is not covered by this tranche of the Homestretch roll out.

In addition to an accommodation allowance, the program includes case work support and brokerage provided by a key worker, to facilitate the young person's access to education, employment, health and wellbeing supports. The Home Stretch program is based on international and Australian evidence that extending the

L-R: Cathy Carnovale, CEO CREATE; Minister for Child Protection, Luke Donnellan; Paul McDonald, CEO Anglicare; Katie Hooper, CEO FCAV at the policy launch of the Homestretch in April.



age of support for young people in care contributes to improved life outcomes.

Home Stretch and Better Futures

Home Stretch is to be made available through the Better Futures program. Better Futures workers proactively engage with young people and support them as they transition from care up to 21 years of age. Better Futures workers will provide tailored support to young people on the Home Stretch program to support their goals for independence.

Home Stretch will commence in April 2019 in the Better Futures trial sites in southern Victoria, and the Barwon and Goulburn areas. Home Stretch and Better Futures will roll out together across the remainder of the state in the second half of 2019.

Young people will be referred to the Home Stretch program by their Case Manager (DHHS Child Protection or contracted) and a Better Futures worker. A young person (and carer where relevant) must consent to the referral.

A potential referral to Home Stretch will form part of care team discussions when a young person turns 17 years of age.

Young people in kinship care, foster care

and residential care are all eligible for the Home Stretch support, with a certain number of places allocated for Aboriginal young people.

Current investment in Home Stretch will afford support to approximately 250 young people over five years. Young people who do not enter the Home Stretch program are still eligible for support through the Better Futures program.

The Home Stretch initiative has been designed in collaboration with key stakeholders. Consultation with stakeholders, including young people and carers, will continue to inform the implementation and evaluation of the program, including any adjustments required.

We will inform carers of further details, including allowance mechanisms and details of the case work model, as it becomes available in the coming weeks.



L-R: Minister for Child Protection, Luke Donnellan; Karen Galbraith, kinship carer; Toni Hetherington, President of Board FCAV and carer; Marita Dunphy, foster carer; Jen Newton, foster carer; Lisa Laing, foster carer; Katie Hooper, CEO FCAV and foster carer; Joan Graham, former foster carer; Kym Philips, foster carer; Jackie Cammell, foster carer; Caroline Buchanan, foster carer; Rowan Pulford, carer and FCAV Project Officer; Tori Smith, carer and FCAV Board member.

The FCAV attended the latest DHHS consultation on the development of the Carer Strategy at the Melbourne Zoo on 3 April 2019. The forum was part of DHHS's broader sector consultation on the scope and form of the Carer Strategy following the submission of the FCAV's Carer Strategy Discussion Paper to the Minister in December 2018. At this stage it is anticipated that DHHS will launch the carer strategy in the second half of 2019.

One key development to emerge from the forum was the proposal to manage the carer strategy via a sub-committee of the Minister's Roadmap Implementation Ministerial Advisory Group (RIMAG). This is potentially a very significant development because for the first time carers will have a representative sub-committee in the RIMAG architecture to advocate on their issues and needs. This achieves one of the key FCAV corporate objectives when advocating for the need to prioritise the development of a carer strategy which is to better connect carers to the Government's Roadmap reform process and to have carers needs addressed in that process. The first meeting of the carer strategy sub-committee will be held in July 2019.

NAIDOC WEEK LETTER FROM COMMISSIONER FOR ABORIGINAL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE, JUSTIN MOHAMED



COMMISSION FOR ABORIGINAL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



As we celebrate NAIDOC Week 2019, it's important that we focus on what its theme of 'Voice, Treaty and Truth' means for all Aboriginal people, but especially for Aboriginal children and young people in out of home care.

As the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, I am very much engaged in achieving a voice for Aboriginal children and young people, but I see voice as deeply interwoven with Treaty and truth, not separate from them.

It's hard to see how we can arrive at a Treaty, or reach the truth, without hearing the voices of Aboriginal people. And it's hard to see how we can address the impacts of inaction for Aboriginal children and young people without listening to their voices.

Those impacts include their disproportionate placement in out of home care, and the resulting separation from their brothers and sisters, from their parents, from their wider families, and from the communities and culture that form the bedrock of their identities.

In Victoria, more than one in ten Aboriginal children and young people are involved with child protection, compared to less than one in 100 non-Aboriginal children and young people.

About a quarter of all children and young people in out of home care in Victoria are Aboriginal, with their numbers growing at more than double the rate of non-Aboriginal children and young people. On average Aboriginal children and young people also stay in out of home care six months longer than their non-Aboriginal counterparts.

It's true that in Victoria we are making some progress to improve the experience of Aboriginal children and young people in care by working towards their increasing placement with Aboriginal carers through Aboriginal organisations, but we must also address the unacceptable numbers of Aboriginal children and young people going into care in the first place.

A failure to do so will mean a continuation of the failure of successive governments to acknowledge the truth of what has been inflicted on Aboriginal people, which includes not only our original dispossession and genocide, but the continuing impacts of their aftermath in the statistics we see across not just the care system, but in incarceration rates, poor education and health outcomes, higher mortality, persistent racism and widespread inequality.

We cannot acknowledge progress without also facing the distance still to be travelled, and the distance between the perceived 'truth' and the truth I encounter in my work with Aboriginal children and young people across the out of home care and youth justice systems.

There is still so much more truth to be told before we achieve not just a Treaty, but the improvements across all aspects of Aboriginal life that should reflect a Treaty that reaches its full potential.

It is my hope and intention that Aboriginal children and young people in care will not only be beneficiaries of this change, but will be empowered through their voices to play a central role in achieving it.

Carer COMMUNITY & SKILLS

carer • KAFÉ

Kinship and Foster Care Education



Richard Rose: Therapeutic Parenting with the Challenging Child Workshop in July

Back by popular demand, Richard Rose (UK) will be demonstrating how to create healthy and nurturing environments - even with the challenging child.

Always engaging and practical, the session will focus on understanding child behaviour and attachment, communication strategies, and the range of tools for managing challenging situations and helping young people achieve their full potential.

Date: Thursday 4th July 2019

Time: 10am – 4:00pm

Bookings are essential: www.carerkafe.org.au



Raising Expectations

Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare Inc.

Now is the time to think about mid-year applications to study. Raising Expectations is supporting more young people with a care background to study at TAFE and university.

Federation, La Trobe and Swinburne Universities offer financial, academic and personal supports and services for care leaver students. For more information, visit:

- Federation Uni or contact Pearl Goodwin-Burns, Care Leaver Coordinator on p.goodwin-burns@federation.edu.au.
- La Trobe Uni or call the Support Coordinator, Transition and Success on 03 9479 5547 or transitioncoordinator@latrobe.edu.au
- Swinburne University of Technology has joined Raising Expectations. For more information and who to contact, go to <https://www.swinburne.edu.au/current-students/student-services-support/care-leaver/>

Skills First Youth Access Initiative

For young people (up to age 22) who have been/or are on a Child Protection Order, Family Court Order or a Youth Justice Order, the Skills First Youth Access Initiative can help them study at TAFE with no tuition fees. For more information, visit the website or call 131 823.

Education Guide for Carers of Children Living in Out-of-Home Care in Victoria

Fostering a love of learning and having high educational expectations and aspirations for all children and young people is vital. Check out the Centre's Education Guide at: www.cfecfw.asn.au/education-guide-for-carers-of-children-living-in-out-of-home-care-in-victoria/

For more information on any of the above, contact Joanna.Humphries@cfecfw.asn.au

2019 CARER SNAPSHOT DATA

The Foster Care Association of Victoria conducts an annual review of the state of foster care in Victoria, collecting data from all Community Service Organisations (CSOs) including Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs).

Our March 2019 Carer Snapshot data shows an increase of 54 active carer households since March 2018.

The 2018 totals of newly accredited and exited carer households indicated an overall net gain of 33 Carer Households from Jan-Dec 2018.

With the increase in need for foster carers across Victoria this slight increase does not meet the demand.

To see the full report go to: www.fcav.org.au/news/2019-carer-snapshot-data

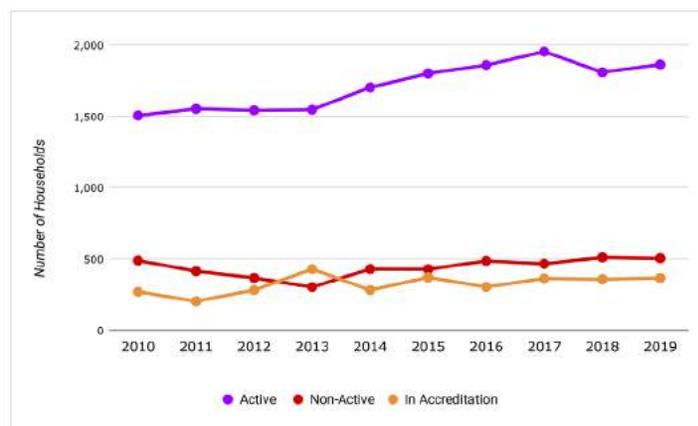


Chart 1. Yearly trends of active, non-active and in accreditation carer households from 2010-2019.



Come and join us at VACCA's Koorie Kids Playgroup in a culturally safe, fun and empowering environment for families with children aged 5 years and under.

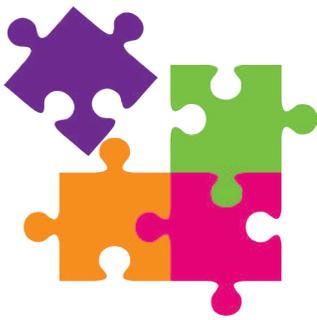
Koorie Kids Playgroup is a great place for children and their Mums, Dads and Carers to: Gather with other Koorie families • Make new friends • Hear stories Participate in cultural arts, crafts and dance • Express creativity • Learn about culture Get to know other Koorie Kids in the area

VACCA also run Koorie Kids Playgroups across the north, west and south regions of Melbourne and you can check out the website for locations and times.

vacca.org/page/services/children-and-families/early-years-support/playgroups

For further information please don't hesitate to call the Playgroup Worker on 0409 641 571 or the Team Leader on 03 9287 8800. DURING SCHOOL TERM

Willum Warrain in **Hastings** run a bush play group for Aboriginal children and their families on a Wednesday from 10 – 12 during term time and they can ring on 03 5979 1391 – all welcome.



fcav
foster care
association
of victoria

Contact us

Foster Care Association of Victoria

Level 1, 398 Smith Street

Collingwood Vic 3066

Telephone: (03) 9416 4292

Email: admin@fcav.org.au

Website: www.fcav.org.au

Stay in touch with the Foster Care Association online:



facebook.com/fostercarevictoria



@vicfostercare

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Victoria and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.



www.fcav.org.au

ABN: 30 747 101 099



What is DeadlyStory.com? www.deadlystory.com

Deadly Story is a cultural information website developed to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in the Victorian out-of-home care system connect with their Country, their Communities, and their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and identity.

The website includes:

- An interactive map that will allow users to navigate Victoria and learn about the stories of the people and land
- An historical timeline that will highlight significant people, stories and events from before invasion to the present day
- An events calendar that will highlight cultural, sporting and social activities from across Victoria

- Service directories that focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services and the supports they provide
- Interactive quizzes, cross word and colouring in
- Interviews with role models and Elders who make a contribution to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities
- The latest in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander news
- Feature articles on Aboriginal art, music, dance, film and books
- A clearing house for available resources and links

Deadly Story is the result of a partnership between VACCA, SNAICC, The Koorie Heritage Trust, the Federation of Victorian Traditional Owners Corporation and Brightlabs in conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services.



CREATE is proud to announce its National Conference will be held from November 14th to 16th 2019 at the Melbourne Zoo

This is what a young person told us after attending our 2017 Voices in Action Conference. Too often children and young people with an out-of-home care experience tell CREATE that their voices are overlooked. CREATE's Voices in Action Conference is about using the voices of children and young people with a care experience to create change in the out-of-home care sector. This is why we're proud to announce that our Voices in Action Conference is back in 2019 with the theme 'Nothing About Us, Without Us'.

Registrations are open here: voicesinaction.create.org.au/registrations/

Young people can apply for a grant to cover your costs for attending the conference here: voicesinaction.create.org.au/grant-application/



Foster Care Association of Victoria
Notice of 2019 Carer Celebration & Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 2019 Carer Celebration & Annual General Meeting of the Foster Care Association of Victoria, Inc. will be held on:

Friday 13th September 2019

11am – 1pm

Morning Tea

at

The Hotel Windsor

111 Spring Street, Melbourne

RSVP your attendance by registering online at

<https://fcavcarercelebration19.eventbrite.com>

or call (03) 9416 4292 by **Friday 23rd August 2019**

Items to be tabled and voted upon include:

- **AGM Minutes 2018**
- **2018/2019 Annual Report and Financial Statement**
- **Election Announcement**

*Toni Hetherington
President
Board of Directors
Foster Care Association of Victoria Inc.*

Foster Care Association of Victoria, Inc.

Board of Directors Nomination Form



Nominated member's name: _____

Nominated member's signature: _____

Nominating member's name: _____

Nominating member's signature: _____

Becoming a Board Director

At our AGM in September 2019, there will be four vacancies to join the board. FCAV full members will elect four (4) Directors (as at the date of publication of this notice) that will serve for a period of three years. These elected people will not only have a passion and commitment to improving the outcomes for children in care, but also be interested in making a difference through involvement at an organisational and State level. The Board meet on a monthly basis, and for regional Directors, travel costs and overnight accommodation are reimbursed, where necessary.

Once the Board of Directors are elected, the Board appoints the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. That is, members only elect the Board, and the Board is then responsible for determining who they think will best suit the executive roles.

To be considered for the role of Board Director, **complete this form, accompanied by a short biographical statement of not more than 200 words** (for examples see FCAV website for current Director's biographies). Nominations must be received in writing at the FCAV office either by email at admin@fcav.org.au or mailed or delivered to FCAV, Level 1, 398 Smith Street, Collingwood 3066 **not later than 4pm on Friday 9th August 2019**. Please note if emailing a clear signature must be scanned and included. We request you provide to FCAV a 'head and shoulders' colour photo, on a neutral background if you would like FCAV to use one in our candidate bios and other election materials.

A copy of the FCAV Association Rules, policies and reports can be viewed by going to our website at www.fcav.org.au and clicking on 'About Us - Publications & Policies'.

If you would like more information on the prospective role as an FCAV Board Director, call Toni Hetherington FCAV President, on 0417 149 577, or Katie Hooper, FCAV CEO, on (03) 9416 4292

Nomination for a Board of Director's position must be received at the FCAV office located: Level 1, 398 Smith Street Collingwood, 3066 No later than: 4:00 pm on Friday 9 August 2019