



Email Newsletter – May 2008

Dear all,

Welcome to the May edition of our electronic newsletter, and a special welcome to all our new members! In this newsletter, you will find details about;

- The [PPSS Committee of Management](#)
- The [Home Based Care Conference](#)
- The [Australian Adoption Conference](#)
- [Upcoming PPSS workshops](#); and
- A range of helpful [resources](#)

PPSS COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

Since our last newsletter, the PPSS Committee of Management has undergone a few changes. Firstly, we would like to extend a warm welcome to John Hulskamp. As a permanent care parent, John has a keen interest in advocating for tertiary education for young people in home care, and joins the committee in the role of Treasurer. We welcome him to the team and look forward to his contribution making a real difference.

On a less cheerful note, we say a fond farewell to Lindsey Harding and Lindy Bok, both of whose time on the committee has been greatly valued. We'd like to take this opportunity to formally acknowledge both for all their time, effort and commitment to PPSS, and wish them both all the best in their future endeavours.

HOME BASED CARE CONFERENCE

The time is almost upon us, but there is still time to register to attend this year's 'Caring for Carers' Home Based Care Conference on Saturday 10th May 2008. Come and hear from some fantastic speakers, get involved in discussions around what home based care should look like in 2020, help honour some 'super support' champions in the sector, and maybe even win a prize!! The event is free for parents and carers, and children are most welcome to come and get involved in a professionally staffed child care program. For full event details, refer to the attached flyer, and for more information or to register for this event, please contact the *Foster Care Association of Victoria: 9489 9770*

AUSTRALIAN ADOPTION CONFERENCE

This year's Australian Adoption Conference, 'Connecting Past, Securing Future', is being held in Sydney from 2nd-5th September 2008. The full program consists of both local and international speakers and provides a mix of key note sessions and interactive workshops. For full event details and registration, refer to the below website:

<http://www.australianadoptionconference.com/>

UPCOMING PPSS WORKSHOPS

- **Mirror Families – Thursday 15th May**

Audience: Professionals working with children in home based care

Facilitated by Claire Brunner & Cas O'Neill, this workshop aims to challenge participants' thinking regarding how to best support vulnerable children and their families. Come and explore the characteristics of effective families, what important relationships look like, and how to form, manage and empower a *Mirror Family*.

For more information or to register for this session, please contact the Centre for Excellence in Child & Family Welfare: 9614 1577

- **Learning Difficulties – Saturday 14th June**

Audience: Adoptive, foster & permanent care parents, kinship carers & professionals
A panel of professionals and parents will provide information and offer strategies to support children with a range of learning issues including:

- Problems related to aggression, anxiety, impulsivity or poor attention
- Speech, literacy and language problems
- Sensory integration and motor skill problems

Refer to attached flyer for full session details.

For more information or to register for this session, please contact Georgina Butler (PPSS Training Coordinator): 0447 055 123 or info@ppss.org.au

- **Preserving Memories – Tuesday 24th June**

Audience: Adoptive, foster & permanent care parents, and kinship carers

This session will show case a variety of styles/methods for preserving childhood memories. The presentation and handouts will focus on children's understanding of events and how these can be sensitively and creatively portrayed. Follow up 'hands on' sessions are planned, to allow parents and their children to come and begin creating a beautiful life story album.

For more information or to register for this session, please contact Georgina Butler (PPSS Training Coordinator): 0447 055 123 or info@ppss.org.au

- **'Great Expectations' (ongoing)**

Audience: Primary & secondary school teachers

In partnership with Ian Seal, PPSS continue to offer valuable professional development for teachers and schools. If you are interested in helping us to promote this fantastic package, you are encouraged to do so either by speaking directly to your children's educational institution(s) about the availability of the training, or by contacting PPSS to discuss how you can be of assistance in marketing the initiative. The training is supported by the Office of Child Safety and the Danks Trust, and is available to schools state-wide.

For more information or to book, please contact Georgina Butler (PPSS Training Coordinator): 0447 055 123 or info@ppss.org.au

RESOURCES

NEW:

- *ICASN Perspective Paper - Search & Reunion with Natural family*
<http://www.icasn.org/perspectives/ICASN%20Perspectives%20-%20Search%20and%20Reunion.pdf>

PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED:

- *Australian Government Inter-country Adoption Strategic Plan 2007*
For more information go to <http://www.ag.gov.au> and follow the links to Families >> Children >> Inter-country Adoption >> What's New
- *Transitioning from the state care system: the impacts of in-care experiences on the post-care outcomes for young people leaving care.*
http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/ASPC2007/papers/Mendes_9.pdf
- *Educational outcomes of children on guardianship or custody orders.*
http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/ASPC2007/papers/Hunter_148.pdf
- PPSS Referral List – we provide a list of counsellors who have been recommended to us by at least one person or family (although we don't formally recommend any counsellor as an organisation). Contact us if you would like a copy of this.
- Adoption Play Shops – Contact Gail Scowcroft on 0419 390 852
- Child Parenting Skills - educational support services to prospective parents forming their families through adoption, fostering, permanent care, surrogacy and biological birth children. <http://www.childparentingskills.com.au/>

- Learning Together – an online specialist bookshop with books and resources for children, adults and professionals on adoption, foster care, parenting, infertility, assisted reproduction and culture. www.learningtogether.com.au
- Medicare subsidised counselling from psychologists – if you would like to find out more about this, the link on the Australian Psychological Society website (www.psychology.org.au) is: http://www.psychology.org.au/medicare/fact_sheet/
- Ruth Kelly from Ireland has been involved in a study on Inter-country Adoption undertaken by the Children’s Research Centre (Trinity College) and the Adoption Board in Ireland. The research, which interviewed 180 families and nearly 100 children, is now complete and available as a PDF file from: www.tcd.ie/childrensresearchcentre and www.adoptionboard.ie
- Costs of raising children in Australia - based on research commissioned by the Ministerial Taskforce on Child Support and published through the Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, this occasional paper (# 18) presents a collection of three reports on the costs of children in Australian families namely:
 - The estimated costs of children in Australian families in 2005–06
 - Updated costs of children using Australian budget standards
 - Costs of children and equivalence scales: a review of methodological issues and Australian estimates

A copy of the paper is available at:

<http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/research/ops-ops18.htm>

- British Association for Adoption and Foster Care (www.baaf.org.uk) - books on adoption and foster care. BAAF books can also be obtained in Australia from St Luke’s Innovative Resources in Bendigo (www.stlukes.org.au).
- Permanent Care and Adoption - Teachers and Parents in Partnership - an information sheet for families to give to their children's teachers <http://www.office-for-children.vic.gov.au/adoption-permanent-care/library/publications/teachers-parents>
- Permanent Care and Adoption of older Children - Information for Relatives and Friends - an information sheet for families to give to relatives and friends <http://www.office-for-children.vic.gov.au/adoption-permanent-care/library/publications/older-children>
- Foster Care Association of Victoria website and newsletters (lots of interesting information) <http://www.fcav.org/newsletter.htm>

- Inter-country adoption books and resources - www.littlelantern.com.au
- Paediatric Policy – *Health Care for Children in ‘Out-of-Home’ Placements*
www.racp.edu.au/hpu/paed/outofHome.pdf

INTERSTATE ORGANISATIONS OFFERING SUPPORT TO PARENTS & CARERS

- Post Adoption Resource Centre, Sydney, NSW. www.bensoc.org.au/parc/index.cfm.
Information and counselling for anyone affected by adoption.
Email: parc@bensoc.org.au
- Post Adoption Support Services, Relationships Australia, South Australia.
www.relationships.com.au/what-we-do/services/post-adoption-support-service
Tel: 08 8245 8100. Nikki Hartmann, Coordinator. Email: n.hartmann@rasa.org.au
- Adoption Research and Counselling Service WA. www.adoptionwa.org.au
Counselling, support and outreach service for anyone separated from birth family, adoption, foster care, step family etc. Email: arcs@adoptionwa.org.au

WEBSITES/EMAIL LISTS

- Educational support services to prospective parents forming their families through adoption. www.childparentingskills.com.au
- Australian information on attachment – www.attachmentresources.com.au
- Information and news on a wide range of inter-country adoption issues - contact Lynelle Beveridge on: lynelleb@au1.ibm.com
- Advice, search and support services for the adoption triangle, care leavers and donor conception - VANISH - www.vanish.org.au
- Inter-country Adoption Service (new website addresses) - www.dhs.vic.gov.au/icas and office-for-children.vic.gov.au/placement-support/intercountry-adoption