



Email Newsletter – January 2010

Dear friends and members of PPSS,

Welcome to the second edition of our electronic newsletter for 2010, and a special welcome to all our new members! In this newsletter, you will find details on;

- An exciting [volunteer opportunity](#)
- Changes in eligibility for the [Federal Government's Stimulus Payments](#)
- The [Carer Information & Support Service](#)
- OzChild's upcoming [Resilience Training](#) for home based care professionals
- A range of helpful [resources](#)
- PPSS [Membership Form](#)

And stay tuned for the release of our 2010 events calendar later in the month, which will outline the key training, workshops and other supports that PPSS will be offering through the year.

VOLUNTEER WEB DEVELOPMENT ROLE



As the Post Placement Support Service enters an exciting period of growth and expansion, the organisation has recognised its need for the skill and expertise of a willing web developer/designer to assist in the all important area of our website. Like many organisations, PPSS relies on its web presence to provide information to its members, associates and the community at large.

We are currently seeking an energetic and creative volunteer web designer to assist us to:

- review & enhance the PPSS website both visually and functionally;
- assist with the development & design of our e-newsletter; and
- help develop a plan for the ongoing support of all PPSS web-based services.

The successful candidate will demonstrate the following skills & experience:

- experience in web design and construction
- reliability and flexibility
- the ability to work independently and as part of a team
- an awareness and interest in home based care (preferable)

Interested parties are asked to contact Georgina Welsh at info@ppss.org.au or on 0447 055 123.



Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Media Release

Ombudsman's report into Economic Security Strategy payments

16/11/2009

The Commonwealth Ombudsman has released his report into the administration of the Economic Security Strategy payments.

Eligibility for the Economic Security Strategy payments was linked to the date of announcement, consistent with the practice used for one-off payments in the past under the current and previous governments.

The Ombudsman has recommended that I consider an administrative scheme to allow special payments to be made to a class of people.

Following advice from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), I will establish a scheme to enable families to access Economic Security Strategy and Household Stimulus Package payments where there was a special change of care circumstance.

This will assist people such as foster and kinship carers who gained care of a child shortly after the eligibility date.

Families were previously ineligible for a payment if a child was not in their care on the announcement dates of 14 October 2008 and 3 February 2009, even though they may have been in their care when the payments were made.

The schemes will acknowledge the special circumstances of people who do not have care of a child on the announcement dates.

Under the Economic Security Strategy Payments Administrative Scheme, a person may be entitled to a payment for a child who entered or returned to their ongoing care between 15 October and 31 December 2008.

Under the Household Stimulus Payments Administrative Scheme, a person may be entitled to a payment for a child who entered or returned to their ongoing care between 4 February and 31 March 2009.

Payments will be at the same rate as the relevant stimulus scheme.

The Government estimates that the administrative schemes will deliver payments to an additional 2,000 families and carers.

Claim forms will be available on the Centrelink and the Family Assist websites from early December 2009 or by calling 13 6150 and asking for a claim form to be sent out. Claims for these payments will need to be lodged by 29 January 2010.

Families and carers who believe they may be eligible for payment under the changes should contact the Family Assistance Office on 13 6150 or visit www.centrelink.gov.au for more information.



Carer Information and Support Service

9489 9770

The Carer Information and Support Service has been established by the Foster Care Association of Victoria in partnership with the Post Placement Support Service (Vic) Inc.

The vision

- The children in home-based care to be safe, cherished and treated with compassion
- Parents and carers to be well supported so that they can nurture the children in their care

The Help Line:

- Supports foster carers, permanent carers, kinship carers and adoptive families through listening, advocacy and information sharing
- Provides information on resources, policies, legislation, financial support (Centrelink, DHS etc)
- Provides valuable carer to carer support
- Provides policy clarification
- Provides education on the rights of both carers and children
- Aims to empower carers
- Is not a counselling service
- Is not a substitute for agency support

- Caller privacy is protected at all times, unless:
 - You provide information that a child is unsafe in any way. If this happens, we have a duty of care to report this information to the Department of Human Services
 - You provide information that anyone else is in danger
 - You agree for us to share the information with other people

OzChild Resilience Suite

This training is suitable for Psychologists, Student Welfare Officers, Teachers and any professional working with groups of young people age 8—18.

When? Wednesday, 27th January, 2010; 9.30— 1pm lunch provided
Where? Treacy Centre, 126 The Avenue, Parkville

RSVP by email prior to 20th January 2010

The training will cover the following programs and will discuss how you can integrate the activities demonstrated into other resilience packages your school or organisation may already be utilising.

Bright Ideas – a resilience program for primary and junior secondary students which teaches long term emotional and cognitive change.

Best of Coping – for secondary schools to help students choose more effective coping strategies for life.

Bright Ideas and Best of Coping have been developed in partnership with Melbourne University and evaluated to establish significant results. We will utilise these programs as a core representation of effective resilience programs.

And will provide basic information on auxiliary programs such as; Expressions - a great new tool for counsellors, classroom and for general group facilitation.

A full Expressions workshop is being offered (at additional cost) in the afternoon to anyone interested in extending their skills in this area.

\$95.00 (Including soft copy supplementary resource pack)

To RSVP contact:
Carol Thompson, Oz Child
Email: cthompson@ozchild.org.au
Tel: 03 9695 2225