



Post Placement Support Service (Victoria) Inc.

Email Newsletter – June 2009

Dear all,

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

- Waiting Families Workshop
- CREATE Report Card Survey – Leaving Care
- Carer Help Line
- Bringing Fun Home
- Using emotional intelligence as an intervention
- Learning Difficulties Forum
- A range of helpful resources



Post Placement Support Service (Victoria) Inc.

“Waiting for Placement of a Child”

... a forum which looks at the needs of people who are waiting to become parents through inter-country adoption

Date: Saturday 15 August, 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Venue: Berry Street Victoria, 1 Salisbury Street, Richmond
(behind the Seven Eleven store on Church St)

A panel of professionals and parents will provide information on:

- The needs and circumstances of children in overseas countries
- The logistics & waiting times of overseas country programs
- Reasons for changing availability of children for adoption
- Looking after yourself - how waiting may affect relationships & families
- Making effective use of the waiting time
- Participating in other cultures and establishing contacts
- Caring for a child – e.g. respite care, foster care
- Building a family through permanent care

Speakers include:

Dr Peter Cook, Clinical Psychologist and intercountry adoptive parent
Ms Janet Elefsiniotis, Program Manager, Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service

Cost: General Admission - \$40 per person/\$70 per couple
PPSS Members - \$30 per person/\$50 per couple

Bookings & payment: In advance to - PPSS, PO Box 1180, Richmond North, 3121

Enquiries: Georgina Welsh (0447-055-123) or info@ppss.org.au

We encourage you to become a member of PPSS – membership is free



2009 Report Card Survey



**CREATE Foundation needs your help as a carer to give young people a voice
and to get that voice heard!**

Have you had a young person currently aged 15 – 25 years in your care at some time? Are they still in your care? Are you still in contact with young people who have since left your care?

CREATE Foundation is the peak body representing the voice of children and young people in care and they want to talk to any **15–25 year-olds** who are either **still in care or have left care** about their **leaving care and after-care experiences**.

In 2008 CREATE put leaving care under the microscope to find out what was working and what needed change. What they found was that huge gaps existed between policy and practice. CREATE want this new report card to show what, if any, progress has been made since they first published their findings in 2008.

If you know a young person who wants to do the 2009 Report Card Survey they can:

- Complete it online NOW at www.create.org.au, or
- Call Cathy and Jo on **1800 655 105** or **9918 0002** to do the survey over the phone or ask us to send you a copy to fill out, or
- Download it, fill it in and post it to us for free - Reply Paid 83194, CREATE Foundation, Level 6, 280 Pitt Street, SYDNEY NSW 2000.

Spread the word – if you don't know an eligible young person, send this on to another carer who might. CREATE is very grateful for your support in reaching as many young people as possible.



Carer Help Line

9489 9770

The Carer Help Line 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



Post Placement Support Service (Victoria) Inc.

presents

‘Bringing Fun Home’

Working creatively with attachment difficulties and challenging behaviours

Saturday 25 July 2009, 10am – 4pm
Berry Street Victoria, 1 Salisbury St, Richmond
(behind the Seven Eleven store on Church St)

Caring for the carers

- Living with challenging behaviours
- Why self care is important

Pushing the boundaries

- Understanding stress ... and strengths
- What are our hot buttons? Do we have realistic expectations?

Play

- Why play? Can play be stressful?
- Participation in a range of games

Healing through stories

- Using stories to explore a child’s world

This is an interactive workshop for carers and parents

Cost: \$10 for PPSS members; \$20 for non-members

Bookings: Georgina Welsh - 0447 055 123 or info@ppsss.org.au

Send cheques to: P.O. Box 1180, Richmond North, 3121



A program of  **orana** family services in partnership with the North West Region

I'm 16 Years Old and I Still Want My Mummy ***Using emotional intelligence to create an effective intervention***

An morning seminar for carers and workers

Friday 24th July 2009	9:45 – 1:15 incl lunch	The Treacy Conference Centre 126 The Avenue, Parkville
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Speaker: Mr Gregory Nicolau (Consultant Psychologist)

Gregory is well known to the Out of Home Care Sector. He has consulted through START (Specialised Training, Assessment and Response Team) for several years and worked with families and children for more than two decades. He is the founder and co-director of Logic and Associates, a company that provides consulting services to the community with an emphasis on helping workers and carers reach their maximum potential through understanding, reflection and behaviour change.

- Explore the differences between chronological, cognitive and emotional age.
- Understand the impact of abuse on development.
- Learn about the signs of regression.
- Develop strategies to work with children who are emotionally delayed.
- Reflect on your own responses to children who 'don't act their age'.
- Discovering practical strategies for early intervention

Registrations and enquiries to:

Eressea Cross
START
PO Box 236, Fitzroy 3065
Ph: 0438 905 753
Fax: 03 9415 6085
Email: eressea@start.org.au
Website: www.start.org.au



Post Placement Support Service (Victoria) Inc.

presents a forum on

Learning Difficulties

**... with an emphasis on the experiences of children raised in foster care,
permanent care, kinship care and adoption**

Date: Tuesday 25 August 2009, 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Venue: Berry Street Victoria, 1 Salisbury Street, Richmond
(behind the Seven Eleven store on Church St)

A panel of professionals and parents will provide information and offer strategies to support children with a range of learning issues

Cost: General admission - \$25 per person (\$15 conc.); \$45 per couple
PPSS Members - \$15 per person (\$10 conc.); \$25 per couple

****(bookings and payment essential in advance)****

Payment (by chq or money order) to: PPSS, PO Box 1180, Richmond North, 3121

Enquiries: Georgina Welsh - 0447 055 123 or info@ppss.org.au

Membership of PPSS is free, and is arranged by contacting Georgina Welsh (see above)

RESOURCES

NEW:

NSW Benevolent Society's (PARC) discussion paper on supporting relative and kinship carers
<http://www.bensoc.org.au//director/newsandevents/news.cfm?item_id=C2821D66AE1EB1D2715EBF5DF829D4E4>

PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED:

- Hindle & Shulman (2008). *"The Emotional Experience of Adoption: A Psychoanalytic Perspective"*. An interesting new book for adoption libraries, professionals and others interested in or working with adoptees and adoptive families.
- *Australian Institute of Family Studies* – This site provides a link to the papers presented during the recent conference (9 - 11 July 2008)
<http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/afrc10/index.html>
- *International Network Foster Care* – This site provides the latest research on issues relating to foster care from around the globe <http://www.foster-care-research.org/>
- *ICASN Newsboard* - This resource is updated on an ongoing basis so check it regularly to keep abreast of Inter-Country Adoption news and information
<http://www.icasn.org/newsboard.html>
- *ICASN Perspective Paper - Search & Reunion with Natural family*
<http://www.icasn.org/perspectives/ICASN%20Perspectives%20-%20Search%20and%20Reunion.pdf>
- *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.

- 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/>
- 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 www.cyf.vic.gov.au/adoption-permanent-care/more-resources/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 www.cyf.vic.gov.au/adoption-permanent-care/more-resources/publications/older-children
- Foster Care Association of Victoria website and newsletters (lots of interesting information) <http://www.fcav.org/newsletter.htm>

- 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: icasn@bigpond.net.au
- 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