

PPSS Newsletter – June 2010

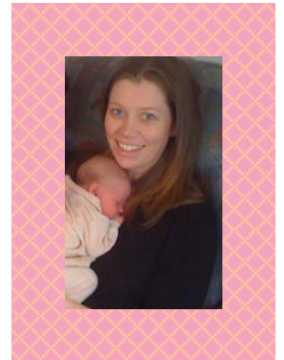
Dear friends and members of PPSS

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

- A New Family Member
- Welcome
- Our plea to you
- Support Needs Survey
- National Foster Carers Conference
- Our website
- PPSS Search & Reunion workshop
- A call for teachers
- Developing National Standards for Out of Home Care
- The Carer Information & Support Service
- W.I.S.E. Up sessions
- Attachment and therapeutic parenting
- Lynelle Beveridge (ICASN)
- PPSS 2010 Events Calendar
- Kinship Care Update
- PPSS Membership Form

A New Family Member

Congratulations to Georgina and David Welsh on the birth of their beautiful daughter, Kaela Ellisen on the 23/4/2010. Georgina is currently on maternity leave and we wish her all the best as she embarks on this exciting and wonderful new phase of her life.



Welcome

To help us fill the gap created by Georgina's departure Jenny Clayfield has very kindly agreed to step into the breach. Jenny will work from home to help us get the newsletter out and ensure that your emails and training registrations are dealt with appropriately. She is already keeping us on our toes and reminding us of things we need to do. Welcome and many thanks Jenny (and keep reminding us of those forgotten tasks).

Our Plea

Do you know of any exceptional professionals (psychologists, lawyers, paediatricians, occupational therapists, counsellors, physiotherapists, speech therapists, etc) with whom you have had a positive experience, for us to include on our referral list? We would really appreciate it if you could forward their contact details (name, address, phone, type of specialisation) to us at info@ppss.org.au

Support Needs Survey – permanent care, adoption, kinship care and foster care



PPSS and FCAV (Foster Care Association of Victoria) are currently in the process of collecting responses from anyone involved in the Home Based Care sector who is interested in sharing their experiences - whether as a parent/carer or a professional in the area.

Thank you to everyone who has already completed the questionnaire, and whose responses are already proving valuable in the process of reviewing the current context and considering the future planning of services offered by both organisations.

Below is a weblink that will take you directly to the survey which will only take 15 minutes to complete, but has the potential to provide valuable information for both now and the future. Please take the time to have your say regarding your experiences. We look forward to sharing the results of the survey with you. The survey is open until Friday 18 June 2010 (but please consider doing it now!)

Clicking on the link below will automatically re-direct you to the survey

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ppss_fcav_support_needs_survey

National Foster Carers Conference



The 2010 National Foster Carers Conference is being held from 28th - 29th of August at the Wrest Point Casino, Hobart. Please contact conference@fctas.org.au for further information.

Visit our website - www.ppss.org.au



Have you had a chance to visit our website yet?

Come and have a look at our “*training calendar*” and “*presenter information*” to view some of the terrific workshops that are presented throughout the year. Read about our wonderful “*committee members*”, search through our list of “*resources*” and read all “*about us*”. Join the PPSS “*membership*” by downloading our membership form from the following location - <http://www.ppss.org.au/main/mydocs/PPSS%20Membership%20Form.pdf>



Search & Reunion Workshop - Challenges for Intercountry Families

Many thanks to the “Families with Children from China” parent support group, whose timely donation has allowed us to offer this workshop at a reduced rate. Please RSVP your intention to attend the session to assist us with room configuration and catering. For further information about this workshop, please see our flyer on the following page.



Post Placement Support Service (Victoria) Inc.

presents a workshop

SEARCH & REUNION

Challenges for Intercountry Families

Saturday 19th June 2010, 10.00am – 4.00pm

Berry Street Victoria - 1 Salisbury St, Richmond
(Directly behind the 7 Eleven Store on Church St)

The workshop is for parents, family members & others interested in issues related to search & reunion undertaken by intercountry adopted young people and their families

Come and explore:

Cultural issues
Age appropriateness for searching
How to approach families & organisations
Planning & timing the search
Homeland visits
Resources & supports available

Panel members will include representatives from Post Placement Support Service, Intercountry Adoption Service and Adoption & Family Records Services, and will include sharing of information and personal experiences of young adoptees and their families

Cost (incl. lunch & morning tea):
Members - \$45.00 each
Non-members - \$60.00 each
(Discount for Health Care Card holders)

For more information, contact Jenny on 0447 055 123 or info@ppss.org.au

A call for teachers



PPSS is looking for teachers to provide occasional sessions of training for schools in the area of home based care - permanent care, adoption, kinship care and foster care. We will provide you with training and a series of modules to deliver to teachers and welfare coordinators in Victorian schools (rural as well as metropolitan). You would need to have a good understanding of the issues faced by children who live in home based care (i.e. children who are not being raised by their biological parents).

Developing National Standards for Out of Home Care

PPSS representatives recently attended the Victorian consultation to develop National Standards for Out of Home Care Services. PPSS delegates lobbied for improved levels of support to help build strong families in kinship care, permanent care, foster care and special needs adoption.

The development of National Standards is a key part of the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children, which was endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) on 30 April 2009. The National Standards will drive improvements in the quality of care so that children and young people have enhanced opportunities to reach their potential in all areas of development including: health, safety, learning and achieving, emotional development, culture and community, spirituality. For more information, see:

http://www.nationalstandardsforoutofhomecare.com/files/National_Standards_for_Out_of_Home_Care_Consultation_paper.pdf

Carer Information and Support Service - Phone 9489 9770

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



The vision

- 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

CISS:

- 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

W.I.S.E. Up sessions

PPSS will be supporting the upcoming W.I.S.E. Up sessions to be held in Melbourne on 17th and 18th July 2010 - for background information relating to this training, see www.adoptionsupport.org/train/index.php.

Sessions on attachment and therapeutic parenting



Some of you may be interested in participating in a seminar on attachment on 15 July 2010.

We would like to follow this in the next few months with two in-depth series of workshops:

1. Attachment and how this affects children at different stages after they join a new family
2. Therapeutic parenting

Both these series will require time and financial commitment. Please let us know if you would be interested in learning more about these sessions (contact info@ppss.org.au)

Message from Lynelle Beveridge, Founder/Director, Inter-Country Adoptee Support Network (ICASN)

The time has come for me to say goodbye to the intercountry adoption community. I've created and been involved with ICASN since late 1998 and I now have other challenges and areas that need my energy. It has been a rewarding journey and I've been blessed to personally know many wonderful adoptees, adoptive parents, local birth parents, govt professionals and non-govt professionals, and others involved in intercountry adoption. Thankyou all for your contribution to making ICASN such a success! The ICASN State Reps will still continue on in their state roles and can now be your central points of contact. I will no longer be updating or maintaining the ICASN website and it will remain in place up until early 2011, unless someone wants to keep it going and pay for the domain registration.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mary Waterhouse/Frost from NMIT in VIC who has kindly hosted the ICASN website free of charge and provided technical support all these years - without that, ICASN would never have grown from its original 30 adoptee members in Australia, to today's 500+ in Australia and around the world.

I wish you all well in your journeys and my one hope is that eventually the institution of intercountry adoption will come to embrace and empower the voices of birth families to be heard and have an impact on the policies and processes involved between sending and receiving countries - I see this as the last group who remain unheard and disempowered in the triad for ICA.

I have also resigned from my position on the Federal Government's NICAAG body and hope there will be many adoptees who apply for the position as it's important for our voice to be involved in all levels of Intercountry Adoption. My email address will cease to exist by 30 June 2010. Both the Facebook & Yahoo groups will be moderated by the ICASN State Reps.

Many thanks, Lynelle Beveridge

Events Calender

MONTH	EVENT	DATE	VENUE	FEE	FACILITATORS
February	Preserving Memories	Thur 25th 10am – 11.30am	Rupert Street Kindergarten Collingwood	Gold coin	Mary Natoli
March	Round table for professionals	Wed 25th 5.30pm – 7.00pm	Graduate House, Parkville	N/A	Trish McNamara
	Journal Club	Thur 4th 8pm – 9.30pm	Collingwood Library Meeting Room	Gold coin	Mary Natoli
	Preserving Memories	Thur 25th 10am – 11.30am	Rupert Street Kindergarten Collingwood	Gold coin	Mary Natoli
April	Journal Club	Thur 1st 8pm – 9.30pm	Collingwood Library Meeting Room	Gold coin	Mary Natoli
	Bringing Fun Home	Sat 17th	Berry street training room	\$30 memb \$40 non m	Erica Menhere Thompson
	Preserving Memories	Thur 22nd 10am – 11.30am	Rupert Street Kindergarten Collingwood	Gold coin	Mary Natoli
May	Journal Club	Thur 6th 8pm – 10pm	Collingwood Library Meeting Room	Gold coin	Mary Natoli
	Preserving Memories	Thur 27th 10am – 11.30am	Rupert Street Kindergarten Collingwood	Gold coin	Mary Natoli
June	Journal Club	Thur 3th 8pm – 9.30pm	Collingwood Library Meeting Room	Gold coin	Mary Natoli
	Search and Reunion/return to Homeland	Sat 19th 10 am - 4pm	Berry Street Training Room	\$45	Fiona Andrews
	Preserving Memories	Thur 24th 10am – 11.30am	Rupert Street Kindergarten Collingwood	Gold coin	Mary Natoli
July	Journal Club	Thur 1st 8pm – 9.30pm	Collingwood Library Meeting Room	Gold coin	Mary Natoli
	International Assoc for Cross-Cultural Psychology Congress	Wed 7th - Sat 10th	University of Melbourne Parkville	N/A	Cas O'Neill
	Attachment issues in perspective	Thurs 15 th 7.30pm – 9.30pm	Berry Street Training Room	Variable fee	Lisa McClung

Events Continued

MONTH	EVENT	DATE	VENUE	FEE	FACILITATORS
August	Journal Club	Thur 5th 8pm – 9.30pm	Collingwood Library Meeting Room	Gold coin	Mary Natoli
	IVF session	Thurs 5th	N/A		Chris Cook
	Bringing Fun Home	Sat	Berry Street Training Room	\$30	Erica Thompson
	Preserving Memories	Thur 26th 10am – 11.30am	Rupert Street Kindergarten Collingwood	Gold coin	Mary Natoli
	Australian Foster & Kinship Care National Conference	Fri 27th - Sun 29th	Wrest Point Casino Hobart	N/A	
September	Journal Club	Thur 2nd 8pm – 9.30pm	Collingwood Library Meeting Room	Gold coin	Mary Natoli
	Therapeutic groups	TBA	TBA		Chris Cook
	Art/music therapy workshops	Wed	Berry Street Training Room	\$30	Mary Utter & Yvonne Simonds
	Preserving Memories	Thur 23rd 10am – 11.30am	Rupert Street Kindergarten Collingwood	Gold coin	Mary Natoli
October	Journal Club	Thur 7th 8pm – 9.30pm	Collingwood Library Meeting Room	Gold coin	Mary Natoli
	Therapeutic groups	TBA	TBA		Chris Cook
	Round table for professionals	Wed 13th 5.30pm – 7.00pm	Graduate House, Parkville	N/A	Trish McNamara
	Preserving Memories	Thur 28th 10am – 11.30am	Rupert Street Kindergarten Collingwood	Gold coin	Mary Natoli
November	Journal Club	Thur 4th 8pm – 9.30pm	Collingwood Library Meeting Room	Gold coin	Mary Natoli
	AGM	Wed 10th 7.00pm – 8.30pm	Berry Street Training Room	N/A	Chris Cook
	Preserving Memories	Thur 25th 10am – 11.30am	Rupert Street Kindergarten Collingwood	Gold coin	Mary Natoli
December	Journal Club	Thur 2nd 8pm – 9.30pm	Collingwood Library Meeting Room	Gold coin	Mary Natoli

Kinship Care Update

19 new kinship care services funded by the Department of Human Services

The Department of Human Services is providing more than \$10 million per year of new funding to establish 19 new kinship care case management services to improve the supports available for the estimated 10,000 children in Victoria who are growing up in kinship care.

Kinship care is the care provided by relatives or a member of a child's social network when a child cannot live with their parents. Most kinship care arrangements are privately arranged by families but child protection workers are also placing an increasing proportion of children in kinship care rather than in foster care.

Most children in kinship care have suffered considerable upheaval and adversity. Most kinship carers depend solely on their own resources and any available informal supports from their family and friends to manage the unexpected and ongoing demands of kinship care. It is often quite difficult for kinship carers to understand, negotiate and access relevant community services when they need them, even when there may be potentially helpful services available.

The new community based services will employ 94 additional social workers to provide a range of additional support services for children in kinship care and their families close to where they live. Specific advice and information about kinship care will be available for children in kinship care, their carers and others involved in supporting them. More assistance will be available to encourage groups of kinship carers to meet together for mutual support. Kinship family service workers will provide time limited counselling to help all types of kinship care families deal with their specific issues and concerns. More intensive support will be provided for the most vulnerable children placed in kinship care as a result of child protection involvement.

The new kinship services are being established in every sub-regional area of the state in two stages. The first eleven Stage 1 services in the metropolitan area and in Hume region will commence operating in March 2010 and the eight Stage 2 services in the remaining rural regions will commence in May 2010. The table on the following page shows which community service organisations have been funded to provide each of the 19 new kinship services in each area of the state. In addition, the Office of the Child Safety Commissioner has worked diligently over the last 18 months to provide useful, informative and targeted resource guides to kinship carers in Victoria. The following resource guides are available free of charge to all parents and carers through the Office of the Child Safety Commissioner website www.ocsc.vic.gov.au or by calling (03) 8601 5884 or 1300 78 29 78:

- ▶ [*Financial support for grandparents and other relative carers*](#)
- ▶ [*Parenting for grandparents and other relative carers*](#)
- ▶ [*Legal issues for grandparents and other relative carers*](#)
- ▶ [*Statutory Declaration for Informal Relative Carers Victoria*](#)
- ▶ [*From Isolation to Connection—a guide to understanding and working with traumatised children and young people*](#)

Other useful publications targeted to parents, families and carers are:

- ▶ [*Information for parents—things to look at when selecting child-safe activities or services for your child*](#)
- ▶ [*Great Expectations*](#)
- ▶ [*Calmer Classrooms*](#)

Kinship Care Service Providers

Region	Sub-regional area	Local government areas covered	Service provider	Operational commencement date
Barwon South West	Barwon	Greater Geelong, Surf Coast, Queenscliff, Colac-Otway, Corangamite	Bethany Community Support Ph: (03) 5278 8122	1 May 2010
	South West	Moynes, Southern Grampians, Glenelg	Brophy Family and Youth Services Ph: (03) 5561 8888	1 May 2010
Eastern metropolitan	Inner East	Booroondara, Monash, Manningham, Whitehorse	Anglicare Victoria Ph: (03) 9896 6322	1 March 2010
	Outer East	Knox, Maroondah, Yarra Ranges	Anchor Community Care Ph: (03) 9760 6400	1 March 2010
Gippsland	Central and Southern	Latrobe, Baw Baw, South Coast	Berry Street Victoria Ph: (03) 5134 5971	1 May 2010
	East	Wellington, East Gippsland	Berry Street Victoria Ph: (03) 5134 5971	1 May 2010
Grampians	Central Highlands	Ballarat, Golden Plains, Moorabool, Hepburn, Pyrenees, Ararat	Child and Family Services, Ballarat Ph: (03) 5337 3333	1 May 2010
	Wimmera	Northern Grampians, West Wimmera, Hindmarsh, Horsham, Yarriambiack	Wimmera Uniting Care Ph: (03) 5382 6789	1 May 2010
Hume	West Hume	Greater Shepparton, Moira, Strathbogie, Mitchell, Murrindindi	Berry Street Victoria Ph: (03) 5822 8100	1 March 2010
	East Hume	Wodonga, Wangaratta, Benalla, Alpine, Indigo, Towong, Mansfield	Upper Murray Family Care Ph: (03) 5720 0000	1 March 2010
Loddon Mallee	Loddon Campaspe	Greater Bendigo, Campaspe, Central Goldfields, Loddon, Macedon Ranges, Mt Alexander	St Luke's Anglicare Ph: (03) 5032 1205	1 May 2010
	Mallee	Mildura, Swan Hill, Gannawarra, Buloke	Centacare Ballarat Ph: (03) 5337 8999	1 May 2010
North and West metropolitan	Brimbank/Melton	Brimbank, Melton	Baptcare Family Services Ph: (03) 9373 3800	1 March 2010
	Hume/Moreland	Hume, Moreland	Orana Family Services Ph: (03) 9302 2700	1 March 2010
	North East	Yarra, Darebin, Banyule, Nillimbuk, Whittlesea	Kildonan Uniting Care Ph: (03) 8401 0100	1 March 2010
	Western	Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Hobsons Bay, Wyndham	Anglicare Victoria Ph: (03) 9396 7400	1 March 2010
Southern metropolitan	Outer South	Greater Dandenong, Casey, Cardinia	Wesley Mission Victoria Ph: (03) 9794 3000	1 March 2010
	Inner Middle	Bayside, Glen Eira, Kingston, Port Phillip, Stonnington	Children Australia (Oz Child) Ph: (03) 9212 5600	1 March 2010
	Frankston/Mornington Peninsular	Frankston, Mornington Peninsular	Children Australia (Oz Child) Ph: (03) 9212 5600	1 March 2010