

Welcome to April's edition of our newsletter

We hope you are enjoying receiving our newsletters more frequently this year. To start off our April edition, here's a quick run-down of some current activities:

- Many of you have already RSVPed for our free Family Day event on 20 May. Due to the overwhelming demand, we doubled the places available. As well as attendance at the Wallace and Gromit exhibition, families who have RSVPed will be able to participate in a joint activity over their BYO picnic lunch.
- PPSS has been continuing to represent the priorities and perspectives of members on the steering groups for the Australian Adoption conference, addressing adoption and permanent care, as well as the National Foster and Kinship Care Conference, 'Strengthening Care'. Further information on both conferences is available in this newsletter.

The Australian Adoption Conference is currently calling for papers (closing date, 11 May) and is keen to get submissions from individuals and families affected by adoption and permanent care. If you're interested in putting a submission in and would like to talk to PPSS about this, please contact me at jennifer@ppss.org.au or on telephone 9020 1830.

- We've been continuing our work with Journal Club, kinship care support groups and play groups. Updated information for all of these, including dates and locations, is available on page 2 of this newsletter. Further information is always available at our website, www.ppss.org.au or by contacting Deborah Hunt on telephone 9020 1839.
- And last but certainly not least, we have continued to roll out more sessions of *Let's Talk*, our program looking at adoption, permanent care and schools. We're currently delivering this to various kinship care groups around Melbourne and building a dedicated training session and accompanying resource for kinship carers. For further information, contact Lindy Bok at lindy@ppss.org.au or on telephone 9020 1837.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our events, groups or programs very soon!

Jennifer Duncan
Chief Executive Officer, PPSS

The Australian Adoption Conference – 22-23 October



Call for submissions – EXTENDED

Final Presentations must be submitted by **COB 11/05/12**. If you would like assistance in preparing a submission, please contact PPSS on 9020 1830.

Melbourne will host the 10th Australian Adoption Conference at Melbourne Convention Exhibition Centre.

The Conference is an opportunity for adoption professionals from Australia and overseas, and for individuals and families affected by adoption and permanent care, to meet to:

- discuss current legal, ethical and practice issues
- present accounts/testimonials of life journeys by those affected by adoption and permanent care
- share research and new understandings about adoption and permanent care
- network and share information.

The Conference will highlight:

- local and overseas adoption and permanent care, trends and developments
- adoption and permanent care of children with special needs and children in out-of-home care.

The Conference themes are:

- **Reconnecting:** search and reunion, including use of media, cyberspace, social networking
- **Outcomes of adoption and permanent care:** historical perspectives, personal narratives, research perspectives, learnings from past adoption practices
- **Therapeutic perspectives:** loss and grief, post adoption trauma, healing, wellbeing, innovative approaches, support services
- **Aboriginal perspectives:** history, cultural safety and stability
- **Cross cultural perspectives:** local and intercountry adoption and permanent care
- **Strengthening outcomes for children in adoption and permanent care:** current practices in supporting connections, creating stability and planning for permanency.

Further conference program details and information on how to apply to present a paper can be located on the events page: www.berrystreet.org.au/events

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Support Groups and Community Events

■ Journal Club

A short article is chosen each month as a way of opening up discussion about a topic of interest to those involved in the care of children raised in non-biological families.
Collingwood Library, 11 Stanton St, Abbotsford
First Thursday each month 8.00pm - 9.30pm
Call PPSS: 9020 1833 or email: info@ppss.org.au

■ Adult Adoptee Network

An adoptee support network offering regular social activities for young adults and teenagers adopted from overseas
Email: adultadopteenetwork@gmail.com

■ Northern "All Ways Playgroup"

Jika Jika Community Centre, Oldis Gardens, East St
Every second Thursday 11.45am - 2.00pm
Call Dan Barron - 0422 050 689

■ Inner-South *Forever Families* Playgroup

for families with adopted (local and international), permanent care, kinship and foster care children.
Every second Thursday 10.00am - 12.00pm, various locations
Call Belinda - 0421 610 931 to enquire about venue

■ Western suburbs Playgroup

Every second Friday 10.00am
May 4 - Alamand Park café, Synedes Rd, Point Cook
May 18 - Melbourne Museum
Call Linda - 0401 716 496

■ Regional Greater West Playgroup for Grandparents and carers of young children

Every Monday 10.00am - 11.30am
Baptist Church, Holts Lane, Bacchus Marsh
Call Lisa Trott-Kelly - 5366 7100

■ Kinship Care Sessions - Melton

May 22, 10am - 12pm and June 26, 10.00am - 12.00pm
The May session includes a discussion on innovative and interactive ways to assist teenagers understand and regulate their emotions and engage in problem solving.
Location: Melton Community Hall Complex - Room 2
232 High Street Melton
Call PPSS: 9020 1833 or email: info@ppss.org.au

■ Kinship Care Session - Moonee Ponds

Date and Venue to be determined
Call PPSS: 9020 1833 or email info@ppss.org.au and check our website for further information.

Dr Bruce Perry Tour August 2012



Berry Street is excited to announce that Dr Bruce D. Perry (M.D., Ph.D.) is returning to Australia for a speaking tour in August.

Dr Perry is an internationally-recognised authority on children in crisis. Dr Perry is the Senior Fellow of The Child Trauma Academy (CTA), a not-for-profit organisation based in the United States, working to improve the lives of high-risk children through direct service, research and education www.ChildTrauma.org

He is also an adjunct Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Sciences at Northwestern University School of Medicine in Chicago as well as an author, with Maia Szalavitz, of *The Boy Who Was Raised As a Dog*, a bestselling book based on his work with maltreated children and *Born For Love: Why Empathy is Essential and Endangered*, published in April 2010.

Over the last 30 years, Dr Perry has been an active teacher, clinician and researcher in children's mental health and the neurosciences. This visit will see Dr Perry present material for first time audiences, as well as new topics for those that are fortunate enough to have seen him before.

Further details and information on dates, locations and how to register your attendance will be available shortly on www.berrystreet.org.au events page.



Strengthening Care: Best Outcomes

Where: Sebel Albert Park
Hotel, Melbourne

When: Friday 19 to Sunday 21
October 2012

The conference aims to focus on the overall theme of strengthening care, understanding, placement, relationships and partnerships; strengthening outcomes, culture and identity; and strengthening independence for foster and kinship care.

For further information on the conference visit:
www.strengtheningcare2012.com.au