

Message from the CEO

Hello and a warm welcome to the first newsletter from the Post Placement Resource Centre, established with generous support from ANZ Trustees, William Buckland Foundation, Collie Foundation and the Alfred Bequest Committee. Since opening our doors earlier this year, the project team have responded to a growing number of requests from carers, parents and workers seeking information support and training.



Janet Elefsiniotis CEO

Wednesday 6 July was a great day of celebration for PPSS with a wonderful Children's Art Exhibition in the morning opened by The Hon Mary Wooldridge Minister for Community Services. In the afternoon the Post Placement Resource Centre was officially launched by Mr Bernie Geary, Victorian Child Safety Commissioner. It was our pleasure to welcome so many sector colleagues, friends and members to these enjoyable events.

Meet the Project Team

Office Managers : Deborah Hunt & Michele Lazinchuk

Training Managers: Jackie Cameron & Kath Williamson

Service Development Manager: Andrew Minge

Mirror Families Project Manager: Juliette Borenstein

Mirror Families Support Worker: Maureen Campion

Telephone Helpline

Raising children can be hard work, especially for families with limited support. We believe that well supported carers and parents are able to build and maintain stable and positive families for children and young people.

The Post Placement Resource Centre jointly operates a Helpline with the Foster Care Association. The Helpline is open during business hours and available to adoptive parents, permanent carers and kinship carers.. The Helpline provides you with someone to call for information, support or referral to a specialist service.

Information and Support Service:
Post Placement Resource Centre:
(03) 9020 1833
Foster Care Association of Victoria:
(03) 9489 9770



UPCOMING EVENTS & SUPPORT GROUPS

Families Forever Seminar

International guest presenter Professor Peter Pecora will explore topics related to achieving post placement stability and permanency for children.

**St Hilda's College, University of Melbourne,
College Crescent, Parkville**

Thursday August 4, 2011 10am – 4pm

Adoption Training

Deb Riley, Executive Director at the Center for Adoption Support and Education (America) will be conducting a number of workshops

Venue: Richmond (TBC)

October 7, 2011 – A session for professionals, Mental Health Issues for adopted children and teens

October 8, 2011 – Sessions for parents, Telling the Adoption Story and/or Adoption through the eyes of adolescents

October 9, 2011 – the very popular W.I.S.E.Up! session for parents and children aged 6 to 12 is coming back

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

First Thurs each month

7.30pm—9pm

Adult adoptee network

An adoptee support network, available for adult adoptees and also for children aged 13 to 18 aims to establish regular activity based social events for people adopted from overseas. If you, or someone you know is interested to find out more, please call Andrew or email adultadopteenetwork@gmail.com

Post Placement Support Service
Wednesday August 24, 2011 7pm

Northern Playgroup

Jika Jika Community Centre

Every second Thurs 1pm—3pm

Ph: 0422 050 689 (Dan Barron)

Inner South Playgroup

Port Melbourne Family & Children's Hub

Every second Thurs 10am—12pm

Ph: 0421 610 931 (Belinda)

Post Placement Support Service (PPSS) is a not-for-profit community organisation that assists kinship carers, permanent carers and adoptive parents to access peer support and specialist services. We believe well supported families can build and maintain stable and positive family lives for children and young people. Our services are designed to strengthen relationships and nurture understanding through education and support.

The services available from the Post Placement Resource Centre are provided by a team of experienced and caring professionals, supported by dedicated volunteers.

Education for carers and parents – specialist training programs and information sessions covering a wide range of topics, such as managing attachment difficulties; dealing with challenging behaviours; contact with birth families; adolescent identity issues and therapeutic parenting techniques.

Education for professionals – professional development and consultancy for child welfare practitioners, allied health professionals and teachers to increase understanding of issues relevant to children and families in permanent care, kinship care, foster care and adoption.

Carer information and support service – operating in conjunction with the Foster Care Association of Victoria to provide individual support and information through telephone help line, web sites, newsletters and fact sheets as well as professional referrals for specialist support and assistance.

Support groups – regional self-help support groups offering play activities for children and social interaction for carers and adoptive parents in a safe and nurturing environment.

Online resource centre – includes publications and online learning opportunities, as well as links to local, national and international care and adoption networks.

Resource library – a lending library of donated books and reference materials relating to permanent care, kinship care, foster care and adoption.



Mirror Families Program – *Mirror Families* is a new approach which focuses on creating enduring support networks for vulnerable children and young people. The *Mirror Families* Consultancy Service offers information, training and support to community service agencies for program development and work with individual families.

Kinship and permanent care engagement – provided in partnership with child placement agencies to enhance support and education for carers with a particular focus on reaching out to isolated grandparent and relative carers who have limited personal or professional support.

Research and best practice – conducted in partnership with researchers, academic institutions and other community service organisations to inform and develop best practice models of post placement specialist support for children and families.

Advocacy – to influence government policy, increase public awareness about service gaps and achieve better outcomes for children and young people in the home based care and adoption systems.

Contact Us

If you would like to access any of our support and education services, contact us on the details below:

Post Placement Resource Centre
135 Mt Alexander Rd,
Flemington Vic 3031
Tel: (03) 90201833
Email: info@ppss.org.au