

Welcome to the Post Placement Resource Centre's newsletter for 2012

I am delighted to have this opportunity to introduce myself as the new CEO of PPSS.



I moved from Adelaide to take up the role in mid-January and have been enjoying every opportunity to meet with our members, partners, colleagues and friends. Thank you for your very warm welcome.

2012 looks to be an exciting year of further development for PPSS. The Board will soon commence strategic planning to inform the organisation's direction in 2012 and beyond. Meanwhile, our wonderful project team is continuing to deliver a range of programs and services for members that we will expand and grow as the year goes on.

I hope to see you at one of our events sometime soon.

Jennifer Duncan, CEO

The PPSS Board welcomes Jennifer Duncan, the new CEO of PPSS.

*Cas O'Neill
President*

Focus group: PPSS delivery of therapy/counselling service

The Post Placement Support Service is currently undertaking a feasibility study to look at the possibility of delivering a family friendly, therapy/counselling service for individuals and families. We are seeking your input to the feasibility study process, particularly in relation to the relevance of such a service to adoptive, permanent care, kinship and foster families.

We will be holding an information gathering session to support this process and would appreciate as many members as possible coming along to feed in their views.

Please join us on **March 14, 2012 from 10.30am to 12noon at the PPSS office, 135 Mt Alexander Rd, Flemington** for morning tea and an informative discussion. **To attend this session, please RSVP to 03 9020 1833 by Friday, 9 March.**

For those who are unable to attend this meeting, but would like to give input to the process, please contact Michele or Deb on 03 9020 1833 to leave your details and availability to complete a short phone survey.

Education

LET'S TALK: Adoption, Permanent Care and schools

PPSS conducted its first parent workshop for the year which was a 'sold out' event. Discussions centred on:

- talking to your child's teacher/carer about adoption and permanent care
- preparing your child for the new school year – including ideas to skill them in answering adoption or permanent care related questions

The feedback from the session was very positive and the demand for another has been expressed by parents who were unable to attend. If you would like to attend a LET'S TALK session in the coming months, please email lindy@ppss.org.au

PPSS has written a new booklet to share an understanding of the educational implications of adoption and permanent care on the child with the school community in which they are educated.

'Helping Educators Understand the Implications of Adoption and Permanent Care', aims to give teachers a deeper understanding of:

- how the child's loss and pre-adoptive/permanent care environment impacts on their time at school
- techniques that can help cater to these children's needs
- adoption/permanent care 'language'

This has been well received and is now available for purchase. Please contact Deb on email deborah@ppss.org.au or via phone: 9020 1839 to order your copy. The price is \$18 which includes postage and handling.

Out of Home Care

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has produced a new booklet that you will find useful. It is a practical resource for teachers, principals, student welfare coordinators and wellbeing staff. It should be used to support the teaching of children and young people in Out-of-Home Care.

http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/public/stuman/wellbeing/A4_partnering.pdf

Useful Links

On January 23, The Royal Women's Hospital publicly apologised relinquishing mothers for past adoption practices. Please see the media release

http://www.thewomens.org.au/uploads/downloads/News_Events/apology.pdf

The Victorian Assisted Reproductive Treatment Authority site (www.varta.org.au) contains information, newsletters and podcasts on issues related to assisted reproductive treatment

New information on Centrelink benefits for carers, including payments, services and supports, is available at www.familyrelationships.gov.au/AboutYou/Carers/Pages/default.aspx

Read about 'The Search for Family: A Social and Political History of Adoption in Australia' by visiting <http://arts.monash.edu.au/historyofadoption/index.php>

Support Groups and Community Events

Playgroup

■ **Greater Western – Bacchus Marsh**

Playgroup for Grandparents and Carers with young children
Baptist Church, Holts Lane, Bacchus Marsh
Every Monday (school term)
10.00am – 11.30am
Contact: Lisa Trott-Kelly, phone: 03 5366 7100

Kinship Care Sessions

■ **Melton**

April 26, May 22, June 26
10:00am – 12.00pm
Location: Melton Community Hall Complex - Room 2
232 High Street, Melton VIC 3337
Topic: **Financial Planning** – guest speakers, *Laura Mazzone from State Trustee and Nick Trehwella - Financial Counselling Services*
Phone: 03 9020 1833 (PPSS), email: info@ppss.org.au

■ **Moonee Ponds**

March 22, 1:00pm – 3.00pm
Location: Woodlands Park House, 32 Winifred Street, Essendon. Mel 28 F1
Topic: **An Overview of Centrelink entitlements and will answer your questions** – presented by *Meredith Oglethorpe*
Phone: 03 9020 1833 (PPSS), email: info@ppss.org.au

May 24
1:00pm – 3pm
Location: Moonee Valley Community Centre, 9 Kellaway Avenue, Moonee Ponds
Topic: To be advised
Phone: 03 9020 1833 (PPSS), email: info@ppss.org.au

PPSS has a new website

www.ppss.org.au

We are interested in receiving your feedback on any information or improvements we can make to our website. If you have relevant information that you would like included on our website, please contact PPSS on info@ppss.org.au



The screenshot shows the PPSS website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Kinship Care, Permanent Care, Foster Care, Adoption, Professionals, Mirror Families, and Resources. A search bar is located in the top right corner. Below the navigation, there is a 'Calendar of Events' section with a list of upcoming events for February and March, including journal clubs and support groups. A 'We need your help' section with a 'Donate Here' button is also visible.

Board position - VANISH

VANISH - Victorian Adoption Network for information, support, search, reunion contacts and counselling brokerage has been providing services to the Victorian adoption community since 1989 with a small dynamic team of workers who themselves have experience of the impact of adoption. VANISH is governed by a skilled and committed Committee of Management and currently has a **VACANCY** for a committee member who is themselves an adoptive parent.

The committee meets monthly (with a break over December, January) in the early evening in a city location and provides the strategic directions and guidance for the manager and staff team. If you are interested please contact Coleen Clare, Manager on 0411 696 601 or manager@vanish.org.au

Research study on past adoption

Participants are being sought for a National Research Study on the Service Response to Past Adoption Experiences to understand the current needs of people affected by past adoption experiences, particularly the closed adoption processes in place until the 1980s.

Input is being sought from people including those who have been separated from a child by adoption or who were adopted, as well as adoptive parents and any other family members. The study is also seeking input from professionals servicing current needs of people affected by adoption. To take part in this survey, go to: <http://www.aifs.gov.au/pae/>

National Foster & Kinship Care Conference 2012

We have received advice from the Foster Care Association of Victoria regarding an extension to the submission deadline date for submitting papers to the conference. Applicants now have until **Wednesday 29 February 2012** to make a submission to present at the Conference.



For further information on the conference and the call for papers visit: www.strengtheningcare2012.com.au