

## Welcome to PPSS September Newsletter

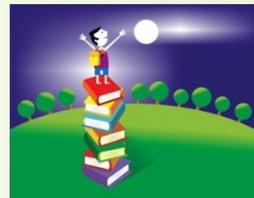
Over the past months, PPSS has developed a new strategic plan to inform our work over the coming years. We will continue to provide education and support services to ensure better outcomes for children and families in kinship care, permanent care and adoption through: supporting parents and carers to be confident and skilled in their role; helping practitioners and organisations to better meet the needs of our children and families; and, taking an increasing focus on working directly with children and young people. A complete copy of our new strategic plan can be found at: <http://www.ppss.org.au/about-ppss/governance-and-reports>

Over the coming year PPSS will: host more events for members, each with a particular focus; roll out new training programs, in areas including therapeutic parenting and life story books, as well as a dedicated program for children and young people; expand our therapeutic referral service, with more therapists to be listed from more areas around the state; and expand the Post Placement Resource Centre through recommendation and sale of books on adoption and home-based care for parents, children and young people.

Hold the date for our AGM, which will be happening on 21 November. We look forward to seeing you there.

Cas O'Neill, President

## Launch of Post Placement Resource Centre Retail Service



PPSS is thrilled to announce the upcoming launch of our new online retail service!

From 5 October, you will be able to buy fantastic books and other items specifically related to adoption, permanent and kinship care, easily and conveniently from our website. All our materials have been lovingly handpicked and reviewed by our team, as well as recommended to us by our members.

To celebrate this exciting new venture, we will be holding a family fun morning, here at PPSS in Flemington. A selection of excellent books will be available to browse and order on the day. Join us for book-reading, activities and refreshments, as well as entertainment for the littlies from one of Australia's most-loved comedians, Damian Callinan!

The party runs from 10:30am - 12:30pm on Friday, 5 October; our members will receive a special invitation this week. So bring your family and join in the fun!

## All Ways Playgroup a weekend get-together

*a playgroup in the northern suburbs for families who have children with a locally adopted or permanent care background*

**When:** Saturday 13 October  
11:00am - 1:00pm

**Where:** Bundoora Park Children's Farm  
Meet at 'All abilities Playgroup'

**Meet at:** 'All Abilities Playgroup' to the left of the Bundoora Park Visitors Centre/Farm entrance (Melways 19 F3)

**RSVP:** Dan Barron, Tel 0422 050 689 or [weemankelsey@hotmail.com](mailto:weemankelsey@hotmail.com)

**Free entry to Children's Farm** thanks to Post Placement Support Service, generously supporting this activity.



### A note from the Australian Institute of Family Studies

Thank you once again for your participation in the National Research Study on the Service Response to Past Adoption Practices. Your contributions have been overwhelming and we are humbled by the level of strength that has been shown by so many individuals across Australia in telling us their stories.

On Friday, 17 August, the Final Report was endorsed by all Australian Community and Disability Service Ministers, and so is now available on the AIFS website:

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/resreport21/index.html>

Hard copies are in the process of being printed, and a copy will be made available to participants. The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) will be managing this distribution. To register your interest in receiving a printed copy of the report, please email your contact details to: [pastadoptionpractices@fahcsia.gov.au](mailto:pastadoptionpractices@fahcsia.gov.au)

## Support Groups and Community Events

### Journal Club

Thursday 6 September, 8.00pm - 9.30pm.

*Topic:* The language of home-based care & adoption.

*Venue:* Collingwood Library, 11 Stanton St, Collingwood.

### Adult Adoptee Network

Email: [adultadopteenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:adultadopteenetwork@gmail.com)

### Playgroups

Please check our website for **Northern, Southern, Western and Greater Western playgroups.**

[www.ppss.org.au](http://www.ppss.org.au)

### Mingle 2012 – Meet, Learn, Enjoy and Share

Mingle provides a fun day of respite with health and wellbeing for carers.

*Date:* Saturday 13 October

*Venue:* Melbourne Town Hall

*RSVP:* by Friday September 28 to 9396 9561 or

<http://www.carersvic.org.au/news-events/events/mingle>

For anyone who is interested in listening, there was an interesting interviewee on Life Matters talking about her work in the UK regarding kinship carers.

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/lifematters/kinship-care/4206566>

There's room for comments as well, if anyone would like to add any!

## Book review by Trixie (age 7)

### A mother for Choco by Keiko Kasza

#### A Mother for Choco

Keiko Kasza



Choco is a little yellow bird who does not have his mother.

He tries to find his mother by searching all around. He meets a penguin, giraffe and grumpy walrus but they can't be his mother.

One day he meets a bear and she asks him to come to her home for apple pie. He meets her other children and Choco is happy and wants Mrs bear to be his mummy.

"I liked that he finds a mother. I think people who are adopted will like this book because it is about an adopted bird".

## Important Links

### Adoption and Permanent Care Conference

Early bird registrations have been extended to **17 September**.

For further conference program details and to register on line please visit <http://www.cvent.com/events/the-10th-australian-adoption-conference-2012/event-summary-be61deee6b08426f90d7aab3db030a11.aspx>

### Children in Care

In this paper the Australian Government provides an overview of out-of-home care in Australia, including an examination of the key issues and challenges in foster care today

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/cfca/pubs/factsheets/a142092/index.html>

## Victorian Government to apologise for past forced adoption practices

On 13 August 2012, Premier Ted Baillieu and Minister Mary Wooldridge announced that the Victorian Government will formally apologise to the mothers, fathers, sons, daughters and families affected by past forced adoption practices that occurred in Victoria.

The apology will be delivered in State Parliament from 11:30am on Thursday, 25 October 2012. Forced adoption refers to the situation where mothers were compelled, coerced, or given no choice other than to relinquish their babies for adoption.

People will be able to view a live internet broadcast of the apology at: <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/video-and-audio/live-broadcasts>

Alternatively, you can contact Robyn Gumley at the Department of Human Services on 03 9096 7366 or by email at [robyn.gumley@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:robyn.gumley@dhs.vic.gov.au) after the event to receive a copy of the official apology on DVD.

Limited seating will be available for those wishing to attend the official live screening of the apology at Parliament House. To register your interest, please contact VANISH on 1300 826 474 or [info@vanish.org.au](mailto:info@vanish.org.au), or The Association of Relinquishing Mothers (ARMS) [arms@armsvic.org.au](mailto:arms@armsvic.org.au) or 03 9769 0232. You can view the Victorian Government's media release at <http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/media-centre/media-releases/4636-victorian-government-to-apologise-for-forced-adoptions.html>