

## Welcome to PPSS July Newsletter

Families often contact PPSS for referral to allied health professionals skilled in matters relevant to families connected to kinship care, permanent care and adoption. PPSS is expanding its specialised database of practitioners and organisations with expertise in service provision to these families.

We are currently connecting with professionals with an interest in the area of adoption and related clinical areas to invite them to submit their details, including relevant experience, for inclusion.

This will mean that when families contact PPSS we will be able to provide names and details of professionals that have been identified as qualified, responsive and respectful. We will be progressively networking throughout Victoria to ensure more comprehensive geographic representation.

If you would like to recommend a professional, or would like to express an interest yourself in being on the database, please contact the office on 9020 1833.

### Job Vacancies at PPSS

1. **Program Manager (0.6FTE)**
2. **Training and Member Support Office (0.8FTE)**

Want to know more? Visit [www.ppss.org.au/about-ppss/working-for-ppss](http://www.ppss.org.au/about-ppss/working-for-ppss) for full details including position descriptions.

## Important Links

### Foster and Kinship Care, Adoption and Permanent Care Conferences

The early bird registration for both conferences expires on August 2. Be sure to register now and save \$\$\$.

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

### Caregiver rates

For information on the caregiver rates which were reviewed on July 1, please click on [www.ppss.org.au/uploaded-files/Caregiver-Reimbursement-Rates-2012-13\\_1343705504.pdf](http://www.ppss.org.au/uploaded-files/Caregiver-Reimbursement-Rates-2012-13_1343705504.pdf)

### Korean Australian Adult Adoptee Collaborations

Are you 18 years or older, born in South Korea and adopted to Australia?

You are invited to participate in a study of online social networks of Korean Australian adoptees. We hope to learn about the Korean Australian adoptee community and how the internet is used for adoption related social media. The study is being conducted by HeeRa Heaser who is currently undertaking a PhD at The University of New South Wales. Participation is purely voluntary, visit [www.OzKad.com](http://www.OzKad.com)

### Children in Care

Read more on out-of-home care in Australia, [www.aifs.gov.au/cfca/pubs/factsheets/a142092/index.html](http://www.aifs.gov.au/cfca/pubs/factsheets/a142092/index.html) this includes issues and challenges in foster care today. The report is produced by the Australian Government.

## Kinship Gathering Together with support from the City of Moonee Valley, PPSS hosted an informative and fun day for kinship carers.

The day kicked off with Meredith Oglethorpe, Grandparent Advisor talking about negotiating the Centrelink system, followed by Anne McLeish from Kinship Carers Victoria outlining advocacy directions and highlighting kinship care access to community service organisations.

Adrian from Child Wise provided tips on computer, phone and internet safety; feedback was that the session was very useful for understanding cyber safety and the potential pitfalls that can occur.

Ursula from Laughter Yoga brightened our day with tips for including laughter in your everyday experience. It was impossible not to join in and laugh. Feedback from carers was that Laughter Yoga was fantastic!

The Essendon Choral Singers then made us sing for our supper; or delicious lunch as the case may be. The choir lead us through some favourite songs as well as singing in rounds! We walked away feeling invigorated and ready for anything.

If you would like to see more photos from the gathering, please click on [www.ppss.org.au/recent-events/kinship-care-gathering-2012](http://www.ppss.org.au/recent-events/kinship-care-gathering-2012)



Support Groups and Community Events

Journal Club

Thursday August 2, 8.00pm - 9.30pm. Topic: When Dad stays at home. Dads are particularly encouraged to attend.

Thursday September 6, 8.00pm - 9.30pm, Topic: One adoption, three stories.

Venue: Collingwood Library, 11 Stanton St, Collingwood.

Adult Adoptee Network

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

Northern "All Ways Playgroup"

Every second Thursday, 11.45am - 2.00pm. Call Dan Barron - 0422 050 689

Inner-South Forever Families Playgroup

Every second Thursday, 10.00am - 12.00pm. Call Belinda - 0421 610 931

Western Suburbs Playgroup

Every second Friday, 10.00am. Call Linda - 0401 716 496

Regional Greater Western, Playgroup for grandparents and carers of young children

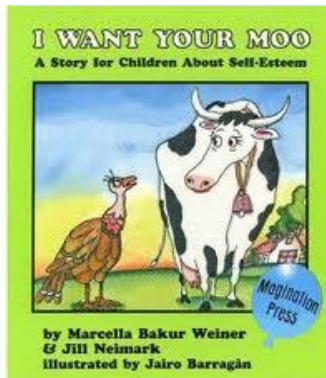
Every Monday, 10.00am - 11.30am. Call Jane Gardner - 5366 7100. Email [jgardner@moorabool.vic.gov.au](mailto:jgardner@moorabool.vic.gov.au)

Check our website for further information [www.ppss.org.au](http://www.ppss.org.au) or Tel 03 9020 1833.

Book Review

I Want Your MOO

written by Marcella Bakur Weiner and Jill Nelmark



I Want Your MOO is about a turkey that didn't like her sound, so she asked a lot of friends if she could have their sound. But they said "NO" but one day she found a rooster that said "yes" but she had to wake up at 6.00am every morning. The turkey did not like waking up early every day and said "I don't like this job".

Soon after the turkey had to use her own sound "gobble gobble" to rescue some chicks. This made her feel happy. It talks about everyone being different but all having special abilities. Suited for children 6 and under. Report by Luke (age 10)



Were you Adopted in Victoria?

Are you the mother of a child still living at home?

Join a Monash University, School of Social Work, PhD research study.

We would love to hear about your motherhood experiences. Call Jeanette Conrick on 0409 256 355

Helen Lenga came to PPSS to enlighten us on her Gong Shi Project (Working Together). It was a terrific evening for all those attending; adoptive parents, prospective parents and professionals. Helen, a psychologist, is an inspiring individual who has developed an international training program to promote the mental health and wellbeing of young children.

Helen delivered training in China during 2010; this was completely funded by Helen. She has been invited to return to China in 2012 to grow the training project.

Gong Shi Project 共事 Working Together



She is now raising funds for the expansion of the training program. If you would like to support the Gong Shi Project you can donate through [everydayhero.com.au](http://everydayhero.com.au)