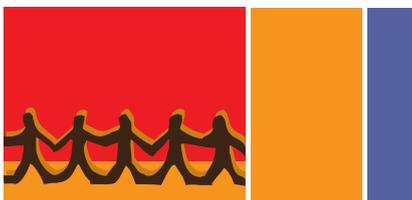


PERMANENT CARE AND ADOPTIVE FAMILIES



**Permanent
Care and
Adoptive
Families**



Annual Report
2016

THANKS AND GRATITUDE

To the many individuals and organisations who have contributed and supported Permanent Care and Adoptive Families this year, thank you for giving, sharing and caring:

Anglicare Victoria	International Service	Ray Carroll
Anne Farrelly	Australia	Sam Everton
Bendigo Bank	Jack Brockhoff Foundation	Serhat Abdurazak
Bernie Geary	Jai Wambeek	Sidney Myer Fund
Berry Street Victoria	Jasper Coglan	Stefania Cagnin
Bethany (Geelong)	Kildonnan Family Services	St.Lukes Anglicare (Bendigo)
Brophy Youth and Family Services (Warrnambool)	Kinship Care Australia	Sth West Barwon Foster Care Network
Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare Inc.	Leadership Victoria – Great Connections	Tara Gooding
Cheryle McLennan	Lyn Halliday	Tracey Greenwold
Child & Family Service (Ballarat)	Lynne Clarkson	The University of Melbourne
Chris Cook	LifeWorks	Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency Co-operative Limited
Coleen Clare	Linda Cooke	Val Sheehan
Community Underwriting	MacKillop Family Services	Vanish
Connections UnitingCare	Margaret Kay	Victoria Council of Social Services
CREATE Foundation	Mary Natoli	Victoria University
Deb Tiller	ME Bank	William Jackson
Deb Tsorbaris	Mei Ling Teoh	William Buckland Foundation
Diana Casey	Meredith Carter Consulting and Associates	The Department of Health and Human Services, in particular: Beth Allen, Helen Brain, Katie Brown, Brendon Carroll, Amy Herbert, Angela Karavidas, Amanda Mason, Matthew Reeder and Keith Smith
Equity Trustees	Mirabel Foundation	
Foster Care Association Victoria	Myer Foundation	
Georgina Walker	Natalie Elliot	
Grandparents Australia	Ozchild	
Hana Crisp	Peninsula Community Legal Centre	
Her Honour, Judge Amanda Chambers	Philanthropy Squared	
	Play Therapy Melbourne	
	Ra Chapman	

PERMANENT CARE AND ADOPTIVE FAMILIES STAFF

Brenda Carmen

Chief Executive Officer

Deborah Hunt

Member Support and Development Officer

Liz Powell

Member Support Officer

Anne Flynn

Volunteer Support Officer

Bronwyn Wagstaff

Administration Officer (until December 2015)

Pennelopy Tan

Flexi Funding Project Officer (from March 2016)

Sheradon Carroll

Philanthropy Manager (from January 2016)

Simon Goslin

Administration Officer (January to March 2016)



EMERITUS PROFESSOR DOROTHY SCOTT OAM

ABOUT OUR PATRON

Emeritus Professor Dorothy Scott OAM became our Patron in April 2013 and was the foundation Chair of Child Protection and the inaugural Director of the Australian Centre for Child Protection at the University of South Australia from 2005 to 2010. Prior to this she taught in the School of Social Work at the University of Melbourne and was CEO of The Ian Potter Foundation. Professor Scott's practice background is in child welfare and mental health. She is a member of the Australian National Council on Drugs and serves on the board of The Myer Foundation and the Tasmanian Early Years Foundation. Her current consultancy work ranges from clinical supervision to maternal and child health nurses to policy advice to State and Commonwealth Governments. Professor Scott has conducted a number of major reviews and inquiries.

When I was part of the Protecting Victoria's Vulnerable Children Inquiry in 2011, we found that on average, it took five years from when a child first came to the notice of child protection authorities until a permanent care order was granted. A decade earlier I had been shocked to discover that two thirds of children in care in Victoria at that time had experienced four or more previous placements. The legislative and practice changes which have been put in place to address these profoundly damaging deficiencies in our child welfare system are now the subject of review and debate. Permanent Care Adoptive Families (PCA Families) is to be congratulated for its tireless work to try and make sure that children in care today do not have to wait five years in limbo or be trapped in a revolving door of placements before they have an opportunity to be part of a forever family.

I often think about how far we have come, and then I reflect on how far we still have to go. PCA Families is helping us get there ...

Emeritus Professor Dorothy Scott OAM

Patron, Permanent Care and Adoptive Families



CHRIS LOCKWOOD

The 2016/17 financial year has been a busy year for PCA Families, with new opportunities emerging, our membership growing and meaningful challenges on the horizon.

The outcomes achieved this year are a testament to the hard work and dedication of Brenda Carmen our CEO and our team of valued staff and volunteers. That dedication comes from a genuine desire to ensure that our families and children get the support and services they need to achieve tangibly better outcomes.

I would like to thank the members of the PCA Families Board over this year who have drawn on a depth of skill and experience to guide our organisation. They have committed their time, effort and passion to see that we can continue to deliver much needed benefits to our children and families.

A lot has happened in our journey to find sustainable funding since I last wrote about the exciting news of state government interim funding late last year. This funding helped to ensure PCA Families could continue operating essential programmes and services to members through financial year 2015/16.

We were thrilled to be awarded, with OzChild, the DHHS tender for a three year funded project to deliver flexible funding to support families in permanent care.

The state government and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) have also provided a much needed one-off funding amount for the financial year 2016/17 with no confirmed future funding.

We've not just been relying on government funding however. With the welcome support of a Myer Foundation grant we have developed a fundraising strategy and employed our first part-time fundraising coordinator who, working closely with CEO Brenda Carmen, has submitted a number of major funding applications.

This strong base allowed us to warmly welcome further substantial support from the William Buckland Foundation for the next three years to ensure our service and support reaches important regional areas.

We are confident that with great staff and strong leadership from the CEO and board, we can continue to provide the support, programmes and services that you have told us meet the needs of you and your family and will meet the needs of families yet to be formed through permanent care or adoption in the future.

As we continue to grow past 1000 members, we are grateful for the support and feedback you provide as members and your positive stories are what drives the Board and management to continue to ensure that PCA Families has a sound future.

Chris Lockwood

President



BRENDA CARMEN

Since the legislative changes introduced to the Children and Young Persons Act last year, PCA Families have been working with DHHS in its roll out of changes across the state. These changes have provided a platform for discussion across the sector and with carers and parents around permanent care.

Our push to see post placement support “funded” has had some welcome success, with the allocation of flexible funding of \$1m for new and \$1m for existing permanent carers. The Honourable Jenny Mikakos, Minister for Families and Children and Minister for Youth Affairs, has clearly heard our feedback from you and the many voices of carers and parents.

OzChild and PCA Families formed a strong partnership and won the tender to deliver this most needed service. A permanent care Alliance was also formed as part of this project and includes organisations with a focus in the out of home care sector; Foster Care Association of Victoria, Mirabel Foundation, Kinship Carers Victoria, Grandparents Australia, CREATE Foundation, and Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Associations.

Our profile and engagement with community have increased with a notable flow-on to our Information, Advocacy and Support Services. Since starting our own phone advice service less than three years ago, we have noted a significant increase in demand for “support” moving from 180 contacts to 900 contacts. Support calls from country and regional Victoria have significantly increased too.

Our capacity to support families across the state formed through permanent care and adoption will increase with the generous three year funding of \$360K provided by the William Buckland Foundation. Shepparton, Morwell and Horsham will be added to our country/regional support, while our work in Bendigo, Ballarat, and Warrnambool continues.

We have been particularly excited with the development of our children and youth programs such as Tree of Life and Acting 101. Providing opportunities for children and young people to explore identity, connection, and culture are a priority for our organisation, and seeking funds to deliver these will be a priority over the next year.

As this report will demonstrate, much has been achieved by PCA Families this year. We thank our very small team of part time staff; Deborah Hunt, Liz Powell, Penelope Tan, Sheradon Carroll, and Anne Flynn. A very special thanks to the great support provided by our volunteers and the generous time and vigilance of our Board of Directors.

Brenda Carmen

Chief Executive Officer

OUR SERVICES

INFORMATION, ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT SERVICES

There has been an increased number of contacts to PCA Families Information, Advocacy and Support Service of over 350 per cent (900 contacts) from the previous financial year (250 contacts).

These contacts have included telephone calls and emails, together with face-to-face meetings, and have covered a diverse range of issues concerning the permanent care, kinship care and adoption community.

The permanent care sector continues to represent the highest number of callers to the service at 54.3 per cent with adoption 19.9 per cent. Legal issues continue to represent the highest number of contacts at 27.8 per cent with financial 17 per cent and dealing with Government departments 18.7 per cent. Much of the advocacy work has involved child behaviour, legal support and school issues.

Permanent care

Legal issues continue to present challenges for many permanent care families; in particular the confusion relating to Permanent Care Orders (PCOs), which lack official recognition interstate as well as the mandatory inclusion of the category on State and Federal forms. Obtaining passports and proof of citizenship for permanent care children, where access to birth family documentation is required, has constantly proved challenging for some families.

Birth family contact, and the introduction of new legislation concerning this, has also played a part in our interaction with the families.

Kinship carers

Kinship carers, especially those on informal arrangements, have been struggling financially, especially with many caring for grandchildren with

complex needs on an informal arrangement, and receiving no financial support. PCA Families has liaised with DHHS to establish a procedure for re-evaluating needs, improving access to resources and support and navigating processes such as formal recognition for carers.

Support prior to granting of orders/placement

PCA Families has provided support to families in the process of applying for permanent care, together with those converting from foster care to a PCO. These contacts have included assisting families being assessed for permanent care in understanding the assessment process; referrals to appropriate agencies; and acting on recommendations from the department regarding eligibility.

Intercountry adoption

There have been an increased number of contacts relating to the behaviour of children especially within the tween to early adulthood age range. There is an increased trend in the need for support for these children, with many having experienced out-of-home/institutionalised care, loss of language/culture and attachment disruption, but not qualifying for the support provided to local children who have experienced similar early childhood histories.

PCA Families has responded to this by arranging parent information sessions regarding adolescence through George Habib (Monash Health) on 'Parenting Teens'.

Child behaviour/schooling

A large number of contacts to PCA Families from all family categories have included child behaviour both at home and school. PCA Families has helped to advocate to schools by providing information and resources relating to children who come from a traumatic background, together with strategies to

enhance the safety for children with developmental trauma disorder. In some instances, children's emotional issues have led to exclusion from school, education and social connections.

Over the last three years, our statistics and interaction with the public have consistently shown that the need for permanent care and adoptive support is on the rise and in need of structured advocacy and assistance.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF PCA FAMILIES INFORMATION, ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT SERVICE



Caller/inquirer type	Permanent care	Adoption	Professional	Kinship care	Foster care	Multiple categories
Percentage	54.3%	19.9%	9.3%	5.9%	3.3%	7.3%

The 540 contacts covered the following issues:

Issue category	Number of queries*	Percentage of total queries
Legal (PCOs, passports, name change, court, adoption process)	150	27.8%
Seeking resources/information (books, articles, other services)	56	10.4%
Dealing with government departments/DHHS	101	18.7%
Seeking therapist referral	63	11.7%
Financial (includes Centrelink, DHHS)	92	17.0%
General support	178	33.0%
Child's behaviour/parenting	128	23.8%
School	80	14.8%
Contact/birth family	65	12.0%
Kinship care	43	8.0%
Foster care (includes conversion to PC)	35	6.5%
Placement breakdown	30	5.5%

* Figures may incorporate multiple queries for each contact. For a copy of our full report visit our website.

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Professional register

PCA Families continues to work and expand our professional register with over 34 psychologists, twelve solicitor firms and six speech and occupational therapists. In the last financial year, play therapists, art therapists and equine therapists have been added to our database, recognising the contribution creative therapies offer when dealing with children who have experienced trauma and attachment disruption.

Social media

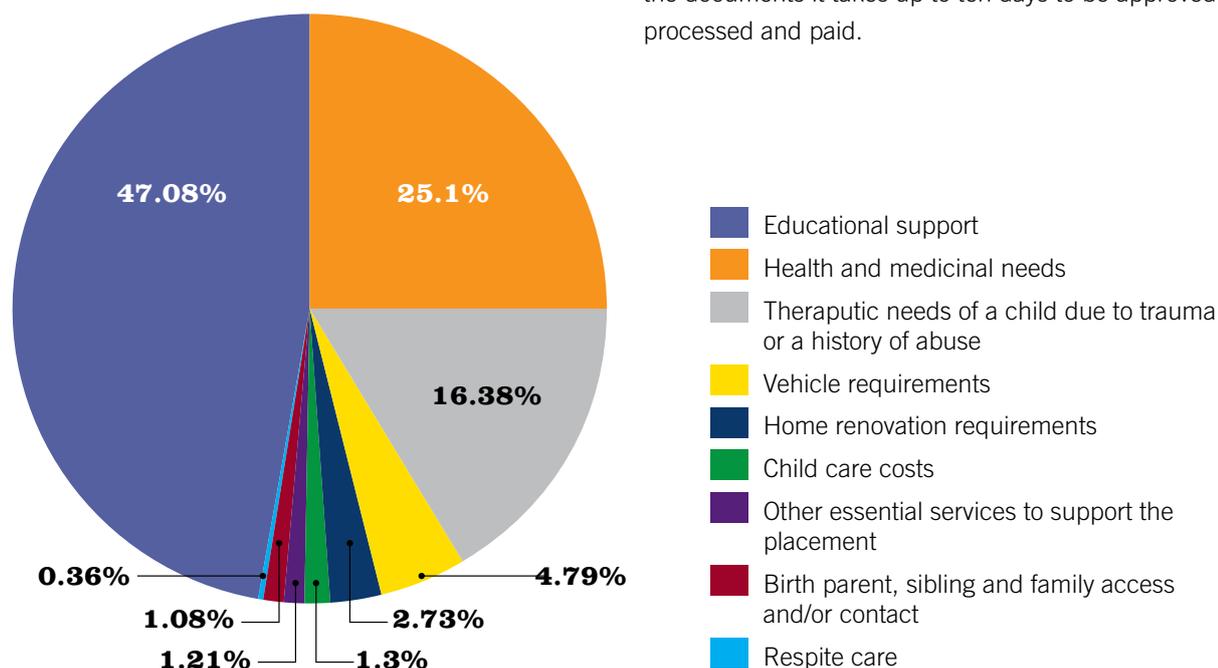
Last year PCA Families conducted an online survey to investigate how our members use social media. Feedback indicated that their desired online platform for interacting with PCA Families to receive training, peer support, news and updates, useful tips, and access an online community, was via email, followed by Facebook. Our Facebook page was launched and now has many registered users. In the future, we hope to explore on-line webinar training for our members. Our website is continually updated and all reports and evaluations can be accessed by the public.

Newsletters

These form an essential part of our member engagement plan, and have provided some great reading and up to date news.

PCA FAMILIES/OZCHILD FLEXIBLE FUNDING PROGRAM FOR CARERS

Flexible funding has now been assisting families with funding since May 2016. This funding was tendered for last year and won in April 2016 in collaboration with our Alliance members: CREATE Foundation, Foster Care Association of Victoria, OzChild, Mirabel Foundation, Grandparents Victoria, Kinship Carers Victoria and Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency. PCA Families and OzChild have delivered targeted DHHS funding to the amount of \$229,348 to 58 children of which 22 per cent are aboriginal. The chart below demonstrates the breakdown of requests. The application process is very simple and all that is required is a phone interview and certified documents of the orders received by court and the invoice for which the families are seeking funds. Upon receiving the documents it takes up to ten days to be approved, processed and paid.



The feedback has been terrific from carers stating:

“She now has access to very successful therapeutic treatment, which has reduced her risk taking behaviours dramatically. Our home life is much more harmonious.”

“Having the funding available has helped our lives as carers as well as having a huge impact on our boys’ lives. We haven’t had to make the hard decision of which child we should put our own funds towards as we couldn’t financially give them the extra they needed. We are extremely thankful for the support we have been given and the funding has meant the boys have more confidence which has impacted on their self-esteem. This support will have a massive impact on their furthering development making their journey that bit easier. A massive big thank you.”

More recently we have formed Consult8, an evaluation group which consists of six carers (who have accessed the flexible funding) and two Alliance members. This group will guide us on service improvements and assist in further developing our work in this area.

PEER SUPPORT GROUPS AND PLAYGROUPS

Our playgroups continue to provide support to parents and children forming life long bonds and connections. They meet at a number of venues across Melbourne to create an interesting and varied environment for both children and adults.

PCA Families peer support groups remain strong in Ballarat, Bendigo, Thornbury, and Mornington Peninsula, with the Ringwood group being reviewed for a revamp. Our members, Val Sheehan and Brophy Youth and Family Services Manager, Pam Jackson, have been key to our work with families in the Warrnambool and Hamilton regions. They have assisted us to build service capacity in that area.

PCA Families Journal Club (Collingwood) has been running as an informal, monthly peer support group since 2009 – with the same band of volunteer facilitators over these last seven years. The facilitators have a deep understanding of the day to day challenges facing adoptive and permanent care parents and kinship carers as they raise children with very complex, traumatic backgrounds. There is a deep sense of trust and respect engendered within the group, together with a good deal of hope and humour.

Topics for discussion this year have once again tended to emerge from participants’ current experiences. They have focused largely on understanding children’s behaviour such as stealing and complaining, as well as on therapeutic parenting responses and different parenting styles, such as using humour, incentives versus bribery, staying calm and other approaches. The struggle to find suitable educational settings for children with very challenging behaviours has also been of great concern to several families.

The importance of regular peer support in a safe, non-judgmental setting has been no more evident than at these monthly Journal Club gatherings over 2016 as parents/carers have shared the struggles their families have faced. It is a model of peer support which will be taken to other parts of Victoria as the facilitators and resources to deliver such groups are identified.

Thanks to three years of funding from the William Buckland Foundation, we will be able to expand our groups and services to the regions of Morwell, Horsham, and Shepparton.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAMS

Inter-country mentor pilot

PCA Families is partnering with the Korean Adoptees in Australia Network (KAIAN) to pilot a mentorship program for inter-country adoptees aged eight to sixteen. The mentor program will pilot during the next financial year with up to seven mentors and mentees. An initial meeting with thirteen enthusiastic parents and six mentors was held to gain input and feedback to form this exiting pilot.

Acting 101

PCA Families held drama classes for children aged ten to eighteen with the kind generosity of Ra Chapman, an adult Korean adoptee and television actor (*Neighbours* and *Wentworth*). With two classes for the various age groups it was an afternoon of dress ups, acting, laughing and performing.

Due to the high success of the drama classes and feedback from children and parents, Ra ran a five week workshop in a little Melbourne studio where teenagers were given the freedom to express themselves in a safe and nurtured environment without judgement.

Thanks to Ra, twenty five tweens and teens have had the benefit of her lived experience and expertise. We received great feedback from the young people, including:

"The drama workshop was amazing. I learnt a lot of tips on becoming an actress and I made some great friends; I would love to do it again."



“The favourite parts of the workshop was doing acting and role playing cause (sic) I felt like I could express myself in those activities.”

“I like being silly and using my imagination ... thanks to Ra I feel more confident.”

TREE OF LIFE

After our Tree of Life (TOL) pilot last year, we were able to deliver this program again to boys from the Sanuk Club fully funded by their parents. Five staff and volunteers had a great weekend at Footscray City Primary school with eight boys undertaking the TOL. A celebration with the parents on the Sunday was enjoyed by all with some great feedback.

“It made me feel like I could ask more questions about my family ... that it’s ok to be adopted.” (TOL child)

“When you have a bad day you have to rebuild on sunny days and think positive.” (TOL child)

“I think the tree is a lovely metaphor for identity, especially as it applies to everyone, not just people who are no longer living with their birth parents. In fact I have been thinking about my own tree quite a bit since the weekend.” (TOL parent)

PCA FAMILIES LEGAL GROUP

The PCA Families Legal Group has Dan Barron and Margaret Kay (permanent care parents), Lynne Clarkson (Mirabel Foundation), and Cheryle McLennan (MacKillop Family Services) as members. This group has achieved a high number of objectives this year including:

- 2016 Legal Forum for Permanent Carers – Melbourne and Warrnambool. Over 120 parents and carers attended. A big thank you to Her Honour Judge Amanda Chambers, President of the Children’s Court of Victoria, Beth Allen, DHHS Assistant Director Child Protection Statutory and Forensic Services, Dan Barron, and Saskia Rijfkoogel and Gillian Wilks from Peninsula Community Legal Centre.
- Legal fact sheet – “Am I eligible to seek Child Support payments for my child under a permanent care order (PCO)?” – The recognition of parental legal status, should parents separate when a child is on a PCO, has highlighted another number of issues concerning ongoing child maintenance.
- Legal fact sheet – “Am I eligible to claim Paid Parental Leave as a permanent care parent?” – there is no federal entitlement or recognition of permanent care parents who are required to take twelve months off employment to bond with the child (as with adoption). Some employees may have entitlements via an Enterprise Bargaining Agreement with their employers.
- Many thanks to Landers and Rogers Solicitors, Peninsula Community Legal Centre, Social Security Rights Victoria and Justice Connect for their advice and support in developing these fact sheets.
- Birth Deaths and Marriages, and Department of Immigration and Border Control – pursuing ongoing issues of citizenship documentation and passports.

The Legal Forum evaluation reports and fact sheets for 2016 report can be accessed via the PCA Families website, at www.pcafamilies.org.au

Training and Education

This year, PCA Families has delivered training to 100 permanent care and adoptive parents, kinship carers, foster carers and professionals.

Life Story Work provides parents and carers with a unique narrative approach to utilising therapeutic tools to guide exploration of their children's lives. Life Story Work has been in high demand with eleven sessions provided in Warrnambool, Lilydale, Melbourne, Geelong, and Bendigo. Anchor Victoria, Intercountry Adoption Victoria, and Bethany have all taken up training this year.

"I think it's a great program and it definitely provides valuable information and the activities are versatile and can be applied to different age groups." (carer)

"To do the life story with my daughter, thus far I had been controlling the information. She is ten and I think my eyes have been opened as to how I can hand more of it over to her." (parent)

"I have wanted to do this training for years – truly amazing and inspiring." (professional)

"How to do Life stories effectively; great tools to use with children around identity; a foundation on how to be effective in helping children with their identity." (professional)

Parenting Plus! offers parents opportunities to enhance their approaches to therapeutic parenting by enabling them to explore the world through the lives of their children. Parenting Plus! has been reported by carers and parents to significantly improve family life. One program was offered this year in Melton with ten parents and carers attending.

"Immediately there were changes from my reduced reactions to my increased awareness, this made a difference in my child being more receptive, open, calmer, and more regulated which makes me think we are happier and feel better connected. It's as if he was waiting beside me patiently to wake up and be the parent he needs me to be. I have a long way to go but it feels like the better path to choose." (parent)

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Our Volunteer Program is overseen by Anne Flynn, Volunteer Support Officer, and offers opportunities for training, supervision and support. The success of this program is central to our service and we currently have 26 volunteers.

Our volunteers play key roles in a number of important programs, including peer support groups, phone support, the Journal Club, training, and youth programs. They are dedicated to the wellbeing of children and families and bring compassion and enthusiasm to their roles.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers for the magnificent contribution they have made to our organisation. In particular, Diana Casey for volunteering her professional services two days a week, Linda Cooke for Parenting Plus! training,

Ra Chapman for youth programs and Cas O'Neill, Mary Natoli and Chris Cook for Journal Club.

STUDENT UNIT

Relationships have continued with Melbourne University, Victoria University, and Careers Australia. Sessions on adoption and permanent care have been provided to 180 social work, teaching, and counselling students.

Placements in the Student Unit have been provided to three students. We would like to thank and acknowledge the hard work and achievements of

- Melbourne University, Masters of Social Work – Arianne Broadbent, Social Media Project
- Careers Australia, Diploma in Counselling and Community Services – Diana Casey
- Careers Australia, Diploma in Counselling and Community Services – Simon Goslin.



BOARD MEMBERS

Our Board is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the organisation and ensuring it continues to deliver services of a high standard and in a sustainable manner.

Chris Lockwood, President

Chris Lockwood has over 20 years' experience across the finance sector working in diverse roles managing projects and teams focused on growth and customer experience in the organisation. He is currently managing a team building industry partnerships to support sustainable growth for a large industry superannuation fund. Chris Lockwood is the father of two children adopted from China and Korea.

Amanda Stone, Vice President

Amanda Stone has over 30 years' experience in the education and counselling of secondary aged students and their families. Much of her counselling work has been with children in out of home care. She is currently working as an education and training consultant and is also a councillor in local government. She is chair of the Board of the not-for-profit aid organisation, Partners in Aid.

Charlie Salloum, Treasurer

Charlie Salloum is an adoptive father of two Korean born children whose journey in the adoption world started in 2001. Charlie also has sat on the Committee of Korean Adoptive Families (KAF) for six years where he assumed the roles of President and Treasurer. He has a varied professional background including a short stint as a primary school teacher, a corporate trainer and HR professional and an owner/manager of a food manufacturing business.

Dan Barron, Secretary

Dan Barron is father of three children. For the past eight years he has been a 'stay home dad' with two of his children, who both joined the family via permanent care. His work experience includes a number of support work positions in the fields of physical disability, intellectual disability, mental illness and young care-leavers, both in Australia and the UK. He came to Australia in 1995, and currently works as a case manager in a homelessness support service.

Michael Cassino, Director

Michael Cassino is a career banker with in excess of 25 years' experience in banking and corporate finance gained with major domestic and international financial institutions including Citibank and National Australia Bank.

He established and ran for many years the highly successful Project and Structured Finance Group on behalf of NAB, specialising in all forms of asset based finance, leasing and infrastructure financing. He brings a strong commercial acumen to the Board together with corporate governance. He is currently a Director of several private companies and a consulting partnership. Michael is married with two adult children.

Dr Cas O'Neill, Director

Cas has over 40 years' experience in child welfare and health – as a social worker; researcher; evaluator; special needs adoptive parent; respite foster carer/ Mirror Family member; and kinship carer. She is one of the founding members of the Post Placement Support Service (Vic) and has a PhD in Social Work from the University of Melbourne.

Thanks and farewell to past board members for their contribution:

Mandy Everton, Peter Farrelly and Georgina Walker.

MESSAGE FROM TREASURER – CHARLIE SALLOUM

TREASURER'S REPORT 2016

I am pleased to reflect that 2015/16 has been a very successful year over many fronts, not the least being our success in achieving further funding.

Before I mention the funding, it is important to note that PCA Families has cemented its position within the Out of Home Care sector as the only organisation that represents the interests of permanent care and adoptive families throughout Victoria. In doing this, PCA Families has strengthened its services and extended its reach into regional Victoria.

Partly in recognition of this, PCA Families, in an alliance with OzChild and six other organisations, was successful in being awarded, by DHHS, the tender to deliver the \$2M Flexible Funding Package to permanent carers across the State.

After lengthy lobbying from our CEO and President, our financial and reputational position was also strengthened by being funded an additional \$100,000 from DHHS for the current year.

In terms of philanthropic funding, our renewed fundraising strategy has produced some very significant results, most notably a substantial grant from William Buckland Foundation (a previous funder of the organisation) to the value of \$360,000 over three years.

We thank the Victorian Government and William Buckland Foundation for this extra funding which has secured the continuation our services for the 2016/17 financial year. It is also worth highlighting at this point the grant given by the Myer Foundation in 2015/16 which provided the finances that underpinned the strategy to lobby both the government and philanthropic organisations.

It is important to note, however, that it remains a challenge, more than ever in this very competitive funding environment, to attract further funding beyond this period. To this end, PCA Families has appointed earlier in the year a Philanthropy Manager, who will head a new Fundraising Committee soon to be established. Therefore we call on members to consider how they can contribute to this endeavour by either being involved on the committee or otherwise.

The following financial statements overview has been extracted from the PCA Families' Financial Statements for the year ended, 30 June, 2016. The financial statements have been prepared as Specific Purpose Financial Statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act, 2012*. For more detailed information, full financial details are available on our website www.pcafamilies.org.au.

Charlie Salloum

Treasurer

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS
OF PERMANENT CARE AND ADOPTIVE FAMILIES**

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Permanent Care and Adoptive Families which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2016, the income statement and cash flow statement for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information and the statement by members of the board.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The management of Permanent Care and Adoptive Families is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Reform Act 2012 of Victoria and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The management's responsibilities also include establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as expressed in Note 1 to the accounts, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to the members, for the purpose of fulfilling the board's financial reporting requirements under the Associations Incorporations Reform Act 2012 of Victoria. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report, or the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Audit Opinion

In our opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Permanent Care and Adoptive Families as at 30 June 2016 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with the accounting policies described in note 1 to the financial statements and the Associations Incorporations Reform Act 2012 of Victoria.

Emphasis of Matter

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 2 in the financial report which indicates the existence of material uncertainty which may cast a significant doubt of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern and therefore the entity may be unable to realise the assets and liabilities in the normal course of business at the amounts stated in the financial report.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describe the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Permanent Care and Adoptive Families to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporations Reform Act 2012 of Victoria. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

P. Sulman & Associates



Philip Sulman
Melbourne
Dated: 13 September 2016

POST PLACEMENT SUPPORT SERVICE (VIC) INC
TRADING AS
PERMANENT CARE AND ADOPTIVE FAMILIES ("PCAF")

DECLARATION BY DIRECTORS

The Directors have determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The Directors declare that:

- 1 The financial statements and notes present fairly the financial position of PCAF as at 30 June 2016 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements;
- 2 At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the PCAF will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors and signed on its behalf by:

Director:  _____

Director:  _____

Date: 14/9/16

TREASURER'S REPORT

Profit and loss statement for the year ended 30 June 2016		
	30 June 16	30 June 15
	\$	\$
Income		
Gifts and donations	85.00	255.40
Grant and funding	166,248.73	292,334.73
Trading/operating activities	1,227.75	11,822.51
Misc income	13,047.34	5,607.50
Total income	180,608.82	310,020.14
Cost of sales	5,716.70	6,405.39
Gross profit	174,892.12	303,614.75
Expenses		
Employment expenses and consulting	217,717.59	214,576.33
Fees and charges	2,996.69	2,701.43
Insurance	4,829.55	6,081.67
ICT	1,274.08	1,065.76
Rent and utilities	40,000.00	40,000.00
PR, media, professional development and meetings	8,028.97	7,767.81
Operating costs	40,219.10	29,636.65
FCAV Helpline	-	4,696.63
Depreciation expense	712.63	893.30
Total expenses	315,778.61	307,419.58
Interest income	9,630.74	15,219.86
Net income for the year	-131,255.75	11,415.03

Balance sheet as at 30 June 2016		
	30 June 2016	30 June 2015
	\$	\$
Current assets		
Cash assets	281,632.77	327,206.68
Fixed assets	825.88	1,538.51
Total assets	282,458.65	328,745.19
Current liabilities		
Deferred grant income	145,000.00	69,000.00
Current tax liabilities	5,757.83	1,075.09
Other liabilities	10,917.81	6,631.34
Total liabilities	161,675.64	76,706.43
Net assets	120,783.01	252,038.76
Equity		
Retained earnings	252,038.76	240,623.73
Current year income	-131,255.75	11,415.03
Total equity	120,783.01	252,038.76

