



PRESS RELEASE

CHILDREN WIN WITH HELPLINE FUNDING

The Victorian organisation representing permanent care and adoptive families has welcomed funding for the **Permanent Carer Helpline**.

Permanent Care and Adoptive Families (PCA Families) is the not-for-profit organisation managing the helpline – providing education and support for children and families in permanent care and adoption.

“This funding means more families can put their hands up to be permanent carers”, said PCA Families CEO Brenda Carmen.

“This will also support existing carers, enriching the lives of children and young people who have experienced abuse and trauma,” said Ms. Carmen.

“These funds will assist in giving children in permanent care a sense of stability and certainty about their future – so children and young people do not have to drift in foster and residential care for years.” Funding can be used for a variety of reasons, including, medical, educational and therapeutic services.

Minister Jenny Mikakos will be launching the Permanent Carer Helpline at Fitzroy Town Hall Reading Room, 6.30pm on Thursday 9 November.

Minister Mikakos has invested \$600,000 for the state-wide helpline, with an additional \$4.58 million package to support new and existing permanent carers.

A permanent care order is granted by the Children’s Court where it is deemed that a child or young person is unable to return home to their parents. Once an order is made, a permanent carer becomes the child’s legal parent and makes decisions about their day-to-day care, as well as long-term decisions like education, health and employment.

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