

Frequently Asked Questions About Adoption & Permanent Care

Both within Victoria and internationally, for a range of complex reasons, some children are unable to be cared for by their birth family and may be placed with an alternative family. Locally, this may occur through permanent care and local adoption. Internationally, this may occur through intercountry adoption.

Where can I find information about becoming a parent through adoption or permanent care?

To find out more about these options, and to register for an information session, visit the [Department of Human Services \(DHS\) website](#).

If you are currently caring for a child through foster care and wish to convert this to permanent care, visit the Foster Care Association of Victoria (FCAV) website at www.fcav.org.au and access the information sheets available under *Carer Resources*.

I am a prospective permanent care parent and would like to know how to access carer payments?

Read the FCAV Information Sheet for [Kinship and Permanent Care Reimbursement Rates 2012-2013](#). This includes an explanation of and contact details for the Caregiver Reimbursement Helpdesk. For further information or specific advice, contact the FCAV/Permanent Care and Adoptive Families Information and Support Service on (03) 9416 4292 or refer to the website for email contact: <http://fcav.org.au/help-line>

Sometimes carers may experience challenges in navigating the Centrelink processes. They may be able to gain further information about their legal position from the [National Welfare Rights Network](#) on (03) 9416 1111.

Where can I find information about my birth parents? For adoptees or parents/carers supporting their search.

You may know the agency responsible for the original placement and be able to seek assistance through them. Alternatively, for assistance in obtaining records, as well as support and guidance through the search and reunion process, contact:

VANISH (for local adoption only)

Phone: 1300 VANISH (1300 826 474)

Hours: 9am - 12pm, 1pm - 4pm, Tues - Fri

Email: info@vanish.org.au

Web: www.vanish.org.au

FIND (for local and intercountry adoption)

Family Information Networks and Discovery

Phone: 1300 769 926

Hours: 8.45am - 5pm, Mon - Fri

Email: findduty@dhs.vic.gov.au

How do I talk to my child about their adoption or their birth family?

For specific advice and information, contact Permanent Care and Adoptive Families on (03) 9020 1833. You might also find the following books useful:

For Children:

How I Was Adopted, J. Cole

Finding the Right Spot: When Kids Can't Live with their Parents, J. Levy & W. Martin

Zachary's New Home: A Story for Foster and Adopted Children, G. M. Blomquist

For Adults:

Talking with Young Children About Adoption, M. Watkins and S. Fisher

Twenty Things Adopted Kids Wish Their Adoptive Parents Knew, S. Eldredge

The Whole Life Adoption Book: Realistic Advice for Building a Healthy Adoptive Family, J. E. Schooler

These books and many more excellent resources are available from our bookstore at www.shop.ppss.org.au

Post Placement Support Service (Vic) Inc. trading as
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**Permanent
Care and
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