

## Email Newsletter – November 2009

Dear friends and members of PPSS,

Welcome to the final edition of our electronic newsletter for the 2009 calendar year, and a special welcome to all our new members! In this newsletter, you will find details on;

- [Returning to Homeland](#) Discussion Evening
- An [Attachment Focused Parenting](#) Forum
- The Foster Care Association of Victoria (FCAV) [Annual General Meeting](#)
- The [Carer Information & Support Service](#)
- [Preserving Memories](#) 'Hands On' Workshop
- [Dr Dave Ziegler](#) Sessions
- A range of helpful [resources](#)
- PPSS [Membership Form](#)

### PPSS STAFFING CHANGES

Following the recent resignation of Mirror Families Project Worker, Rebecca Jones, PPSS would like to welcome on board her replacement, Juliette Borenstein. Juliette commenced part-time with PPSS last week, and comes to the organisation with a breadth of experience. Her qualifications in social work and law, in combination with her considerable experience in the area of home based care, undoubtedly provide a solid platform from which the committee are confident Juliette will make a valuable contribution not only to PPSS, but to the sector at large.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to formally acknowledge Bec for all her hard work in getting the Mirror Families program off the ground. Her dedication and commitment to seeing improved supports for children, young people, parents and carers in the sector are to be commended, and we would like to express our gratitude for her continued support of PPSS in a less formal capacity, and wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

presents a

# DISCUSSION EVENING

for anyone interested in the issues faced by inter-country adopted children & young people & their families regarding the issue of returning to one's country of birth



Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2009

8.00pm – 9.30pm

Mark Street Hall Community Room  
1 Mark St, North Fitzroy  
*(on the North East corner of the Edinburgh Gardens)*

Cost (incl. supper):      Members - \$15 each  
   Non-members - \$20 each

For more information, contact Georgina Welsh  
0447 055 123 or [info@ppss.org.au](mailto:info@ppss.org.au)



# Attachment Focused Parenting

*Presented by*

***Daniel A. Hughes, Ph.D.***

**MELBOURNE - 28<sup>th</sup> November 2009; 9.30 – 4.30 pm**  
Camberwell Civic Centre

**This Seminar offers support for parents and clinicians, empowering them with the knowledge and practical tools they need to develop healthier relationships for children. What to say, how to say it and why – theory, examples and practical interventions. This is a vital session for anyone involved in foster or adoptive care.**

For the past 28 years Dan's professional training and experience has focused on the effects of abuse and neglect on childhood development, and especially on the development of anxious and disorganized attachment patterns. Relying heavily on the theory and research of attachment security, he has developed child and family psychotherapy interventions that serve to facilitate a child's ability to form secure attachments, following early years of abuse and neglect as well as parenting interventions that complement the treatment.

Dan's current passion is the training of therapists in the Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy model. DDP is a directive, client-centered approach, influenced by psychodynamic, gestalt, Rogerian, and Ericksonian traditions, brought together within the dance of affect attunement that is seen most powerfully in the relationship between a parent and her/his infant and toddler. DDP has gradually become applied to less severe problems between parent and child as well as to marital and family relationships.

Dan is the author of three books, *Facilitating Developmental Attachment: The Road to Emotional Recovery and Behavioral Change in Foster and Adopted Children*, *Building the Bonds of Attachment: Awakening Love in Deeply Troubled Children*, *Attachment Focused Family Therapy and Attachment Focused Parenting*. His new clinical practice set of DVD's *Developing Attachment* also guides clinicians in the implementation of Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy.

**Professional registration: \$195.00**

**Carer registration: \$125.00**

***Email [attachmentresources@ozemail.com.au](mailto:attachmentresources@ozemail.com.au) for more information***



**DARE to CARE**

Foster Care Association  
of Victoria Inc.

You are invited to attend the  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Foster Care Association of Victoria**

**Friday 27th November, 2009**

**Northcote Town Hall**  
**189 High Street, Northcote**  
(near intersection of High St & Bastings St)

**Level 1, Room 2A & 2B**

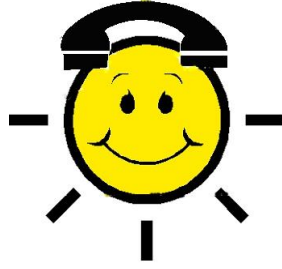
**PROGRAM**

- 5:30pm:** Come along & join us for a light supper, and to hear about all the great work FCAV has done over the past year, while the children are entertained with face painting & balloons.
- 6:30pm:** A formal Welcome & Guest Speaker Bernie Geary, Child Safety Commissioner.
- 7:00—8:00pm:** AGM formal proceedings.

Please RSVP to [admin@fcav.org](mailto:admin@fcav.org) or 94899770 for catering purposes  
(include number of children attending)

For the kids...

There will be a face painter & animal balloons to help entertain while the meeting is in progress.



## Carer Information and Support Service

**9489 9770**

The Carer Information and Support Service has been established by the Foster Care Association of Victoria in partnership with the Post Placement Support Service (Vic) Inc.

### **The vision**

- The children in home-based care to be safe, cherished and treated with compassion
- Parents and carers to be well supported so that they can nurture the children in their care

### **The Help Line:**

- Supports foster carers, permanent carers, kinship carers and adoptive families through listening, advocacy and information sharing
- Provides information on resources, policies, legislation, financial support (Centrelink, DHS etc)
- Provides valuable carer to carer support
- Provides policy clarification
- Provides education on the rights of both carers and children
- Aims to empower carers
- Is not a counselling service
- Is not a substitute for agency support
  
- Caller privacy is protected at all times, unless:
  - You provide information that a child is unsafe in any way. If this happens, we have a duty of care to report this information to the Department of Human Services
  - You provide information that anyone else is in danger
  - You agree for us to share the information with other people



Post Placement Support Service (Victoria) Inc.

presents the final 2009

# **PRESERVING MEMORIES 'HANDS ON' WORKSHOP**

(sessions to recommence in 2010)

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2009

10.00am – 11.30am

Rupert Street Child Care Centre & Kindergarten  
115 Rupert St, Collingwood

Cost: Gold coin donation

**Come and work on your child's memorabilia in a supportive  
and fun environment!**

**Bring photos & other records along to start working with  
your child on their life story album**

**Children welcome!!**

*(Facilities available; parental supervision required)*

*Representatives of the PPSS Committee of Management will be  
present to support participants as required; some tools provided*

**For more information, contact Georgina Welsh  
0447 055 123 or [info@ppss.org.au](mailto:info@ppss.org.au)**

## A Day with Dr. Dave Ziegler

Dave Ziegler, Ph.D., L.M.F.T., L.P.C., Licensed Psychologist, Executive Director and Organisation Founder of Jasper Mountain, Oregon USA, with a 37 year career as a therapist, clinical supervisor, foster parent and program manager. International authority and presenter on issues related to trauma and psychological treatment. Author of multiple books and publications including "Raising children who refuse to be raised", "Traumatic experience and the brain", "Beyond healing" and "Achieving Success with impossible children".

### 'The Science of Success in Working with Difficult Children'

The goal of this training is to take some of the most critically important findings of research and translate them into understandable and useful approaches to our work. Participants will leave with new tools to immediately put into practice. This training is for everyone from the beginner to the expert: for Protective Workers, Case Managers, Team Leaders, Residential Workers, Foster, Kinship and Permanent Carers, Teachers and Teacher's Aides. The seminar will address complex issues and present practical applications creating a broader understanding of the psychological, physical and spiritual needs of children who have experienced trauma and broken attachments.

### Topics to be covered

- Facilitating Perceptual Change—how to help children adjust what they experience to change the world they live in.
- The essential function of Neuro-integration—step by step methods to help parts of the brain work together.
- Changing the Brain's Information
- Processing System—how to turn part of the brain off and turn other parts on to promote higher order reasoning.
- Activating the Orbitofrontal Cortex—making sure that someone is in the brain's driver's seat otherwise the individual will crash.
- Neuro-template Development—how to change the brain in positive directions.

### Learning Objectives

- Define traumatic experiences that affect the human brain.
- Identify the three primary impacts of chronic traumatic experiences: Perceptual impairment, Limbic activation, Attachment disturbance.
- Understand the importance of attachment to life long success.
- Improve the outcomes when working with challenging clients.
- Develop a working knowledge of the brain's most important regions involved in successfully working with children.
- Find additional resources to learn more following the seminar.

<b>Cost</b>	Professionals \$125 plus GST; Carers \$95 plus GST (incl. catering)
<b>Time</b>	Register from 9.00am; 9.30 am – 4.00 pm
<b>Date</b>	Thursday 26 November, 2009
<b>Venue</b>	The Treacy Centre, 126 The Avenue, Parkville

**Further information or questions, contact: Kellie Auranaune on 9415 6066 or 0419 853 888**

## RESOURCES

### NEW:

- Nancy Newton Verrier (2009), *The Primal Wound: Understanding the adopted child*'.

BAAF is pleased to announce the new UK edition of Nancy Verrier's adoption classic *The Primal Wound*. Since its original publication in 1993 this book has come to be considered the adoptees' bible and a "must read" for adopted people, adoptive families, birth parents and adoption professionals.

*The Primal Wound* has revolutionised how we think about adoption. In it Nancy Verrier elaborates on what she calls the "primal wound" – the wound that results when a child is separated from his or her mother – and the trauma that it causes. She examines the life-long consequences this can have for adopted people, as they are growing up and into adulthood, underpinning this with information about pre- and perinatal psychology, attachment, bonding, and the effects of loss.

*The Primal Wound* offers adopted people validation for their feelings, explanations for their behaviour, and a context in which to situate and make sense of their experiences. It is a must for anyone struggling with unexplained feelings and insecurities caused by adoption, and has been described as "life changing", "a light bulb experience", "a revelation" and "a journey of discovery".

### PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED:

- International Social Work Special Issue: Intercountry Adoption: 1 September 2009; Vol. 52, No. 5. URL: <http://isw.sagepub.com/content/vol52/issue5/?etoc>
- NSW Benevolent Society's (PARC) discussion paper on supporting relative and kinship carers  
<[http://www.bensoc.org.au/director/newsandevents/news.cfm?item\\_id=C2821D66AE1EB1D2715EBF5DF829D4E4](http://www.bensoc.org.au/director/newsandevents/news.cfm?item_id=C2821D66AE1EB1D2715EBF5DF829D4E4)>
- Hindle & Shulman (2008). *"The Emotional Experience of Adoption: A Psychoanalytic Perspective"* . An interesting new book for adoption libraries, professionals and others interested in or working with adoptees and adoptive families.
- *Australian Institute of Family Studies* – This site provides a link to the papers presented during the recent conference (9 - 11 July 2008)  
<http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/afrc10/index.html>
- *International Network Foster Care* – This site provides the latest research on issues relating to foster care from around the globe <http://www.foster-care-research.org/>
- *ICASN Newsboard* - This resource is updated on an ongoing basis so check it regularly to keep abreast of Inter-Country Adoption news and information  
<http://www.icasn.org/newsboard.html>



- *ICASN Perspective Paper - Search & Reunion with Natural family*  
<http://www.icasn.org/perspectives/ICASN%20Perspectives%20-%20Search%20and%20Reunion.pdf>
- *Australian Government Inter-country Adoption Strategic Plan 2007*  
For more information go to <http://www.ag.gov.au> and follow the links to Families >> Children >> Inter-country Adoption >> What's New
- *Transitioning from the state care system: the impacts of in-care experiences on the post-care outcomes for young people leaving care.*  
[http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/ASPC2007/papers/Mendes\\_9.pdf](http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/ASPC2007/papers/Mendes_9.pdf)
- *Educational outcomes of children on guardianship or custody orders.*  
[http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/ASPC2007/papers/Hunter\\_148.pdf](http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/ASPC2007/papers/Hunter_148.pdf)
- PPSS Referral List – we provide a list of counsellors who have been recommended to us by at least one person or family (although we don't formally recommend any counsellor as an organisation). Contact us if you would like a copy of this.
- Child Parenting Skills - educational support services to prospective parents forming their families through adoption, fostering, permanent care, surrogacy and biological birth children. <http://www.childparentingskills.com.au/>
- Medicare subsidised counselling from psychologists – if you would like to find out more about this, the link on the Australian Psychological Society website ([www.psychology.org.au](http://www.psychology.org.au)) is: [http://www.psychology.org.au/medicare/fact\\_sheet/](http://www.psychology.org.au/medicare/fact_sheet/)
- Ruth Kelly from Ireland has been involved in a study on Inter-country Adoption undertaken by the Children's Research Centre (Trinity College) and the Adoption Board in Ireland. The research, which interviewed 180 families and nearly 100 children, is now complete and available as a PDF file from: [www.tcd.ie/childrensresearchcentre](http://www.tcd.ie/childrensresearchcentre) and [www.adoptionboard.ie](http://www.adoptionboard.ie)
- Costs of raising children in Australia - based on research commissioned by the Ministerial Taskforce on Child Support and published through the Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, this occasional paper (# 18) presents a collection of three reports on the costs of children in Australian families namely:
  - The estimated costs of children in Australian families in 2005–06
  - Updated costs of children using Australian budget standards
  - Costs of children and equivalence scales: a review of methodological issues and Australian estimates

A copy of the paper is available at:

<http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/research/ops-ops18.htm>

- British Association for Adoption and Foster Care ([www.baaf.org.uk](http://www.baaf.org.uk)) - books on adoption and foster care. BAAF books can also be obtained in Australia from St Luke's Innovative Resources in Bendigo ([www.stlukes.org.au](http://www.stlukes.org.au)).
- Permanent Care and Adoption - Teachers and Parents in Partnership - an information sheet for families to give to their children's teachers  
[www.cyf.vic.gov.au/adoption-permanent-care/more-resources/publications/teachers-parents](http://www.cyf.vic.gov.au/adoption-permanent-care/more-resources/publications/teachers-parents)
- Permanent Care and Adoption of older Children - Information for Relatives and Friends - an information sheet for families to give to relatives and friends  
[www.cyf.vic.gov.au/adoption-permanent-care/more-resources/publications/older-children](http://www.cyf.vic.gov.au/adoption-permanent-care/more-resources/publications/older-children)
- Foster Care Association of Victoria website and newsletters (lots of interesting information) <http://www.fcav.org/newsletter.htm>
- Paediatric Policy – *Health Care for Children in 'Out-of-Home' Placements*  
[www.racp.edu.au/hpu/paed/outofHome.pdf](http://www.racp.edu.au/hpu/paed/outofHome.pdf)

## INTERSTATE ORGANISATIONS OFFERING SUPPORT TO PARENTS & CARERS

- Post Adoption Resource Centre, Sydney, NSW. [www.bensoc.org.au/parc/index.cfm](http://www.bensoc.org.au/parc/index.cfm). Information and counselling for anyone affected by adoption. Email: [parc@bensoc.org.au](mailto:parc@bensoc.org.au)
- Post Adoption Support Services, Relationships Australia, South Australia. [www.relationships.com.au/what-we-do/services/post-adoption-support-service](http://www.relationships.com.au/what-we-do/services/post-adoption-support-service)  
Tel: 08 8245 8100. Nikki Hartmann, Coordinator. Email: [n.hartmann@rasa.org.au](mailto:n.hartmann@rasa.org.au)
- Adoption Research and Counselling Service WA. [www.adoptionwa.org.au](http://www.adoptionwa.org.au)  
Counselling, support and outreach service for anyone separated from birth family, adoption, foster care, step family etc. Email: [arcs@adoptionwa.org.au](mailto:arcs@adoptionwa.org.au)

## WEBSITES/EMAIL LISTS

- Educational support services to prospective parents forming their families through adoption. [www.childparentingskills.com.au](http://www.childparentingskills.com.au)
- Australian information on attachment – [www.attachmentresources.com.au](http://www.attachmentresources.com.au)
- Information and news on a wide range of inter-country adoption issues - contact Lynelle Beveridge on: [icasn@bigpond.net.au](mailto:icasn@bigpond.net.au)
- Advice, search and support services for the adoption triangle, care leavers and donor conception - VANISH - [www.vanish.org.au](http://www.vanish.org.au)
- Inter-country Adoption Service (new website addresses) - [www.dhs.vic.gov.au/icas](http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/icas) and [office-for-children.vic.gov.au/placement-support/intercountry-adoption](http://office-for-children.vic.gov.au/placement-support/intercountry-adoption)



## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF Post Placement Support Service (Vic) Incorporated

I desire to become a member of Post Placement Support Service (Vic) Incorporated

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ P/code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I am an (*please tick*):  Adoptive Parent  Permanent Carer  Foster Carer  
 Kinship Carer  Professional  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Area(s) of interest (*please tick*):

- Permanent care  Kinship care  Adoption  
 Foster care  Assisted reproduction

In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to be bound by the rules of the Association for the time being in force.

Signature(s) of Applicant(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

***For office use only:***

**Approved by Committee of Management**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

*Membership is open to any person in the Australian community who has an interest in home based care – permanent care, adoption, foster care and kinship care.*

*PPSS advises that all details will be treated with absolute confidentiality and will not be made available to a third party without your prior consent.*