



**Permanent
Care and
Adoptive
Families**



Annual Report 2022

Permanent Care and Adoptive Families

PCA Families Board

Naomi Colville
Chair

Chris Lockwood
Deputy Chair

Directors:

Dan Barron

Meredith Carter

Judy Gouldbourn

Kris Peach

Sarah Witty

Visit our website to view their profiles

www.pcafamilies.org.au/about/governance

Our Staff

Lisa Milani
Chief Executive Officer until 31/1/2022

Kris Peach
Interim Chief Executive Officer from 1/12/21

Amanda Bresnan
Interim Chief Executive Officer 26/4 to 28/11/2021

Deborah Hunt
Office Manager and Member Engagement

Sonia Wagner
Project Officer

Liz Powell
Helpline and Flexifunding Team Lead

Merle Shap
Advocacy and Support Advisor

Andrea Campbell
Advocacy and Support Advisor

Ray Carroll
Advocacy and Support Advisor

Patricia Stack
Advocacy and Support Advisor from 27/9/2021

Anita Wall
Advocacy and Support Advisor from 5/10/2021

Virginia Papadopoulos
Advocacy and Support Advisor from 7/2/2022

Zahra Shire
Lead Client Services Officer

Vicki Coverdale
Advocacy and Support Advisor until 31/7/2021

Tish McLean-Neil
Client Services Officer from 18/5/2022

Maria Camerotto
Client Services Officer from 22/5/2022

Sonalee Weerasinghe
Client Service Officer 20/12/2021 to 22/6/2022

Eden Lee
Client Service Officer 15/3/2021 to 24/3/2022



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Acknowledgement of country

In the spirit of reconciliation PCA Families acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea, and community. We pay our respect to their elders past, present, and emerging, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Everyone is welcome at PCA Families

We value and celebrate diversity in all its forms. PCA Families actively supports inclusion of people from LGBTIQ+ communities, people with disabilities, people from diverse cultural and linguistic communities, people with non-traditional family structures, and people with diverse religious beliefs and affiliations.

PCA Families is a child safe organisation

PCA Families is a child safe organization. We believe that children have the right to feel and be safe at all times.

From the Chair Naomi Colville



It is my privilege to present PCA Families' 2022 Annual Report to our members, our friends, and the community. Our annual report demonstrates how we continue to deliver support and care to our families so that they can offer our vulnerable children strength and stability in the form of permanency. In doing so we recognise that well supported families make it possible for our children to thrive.

Not without its challenges, this year has been one of introspection and consolidation. Coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in changes for us all; in our family lives and our work lives. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend our thanks for the continued efforts of our employees and acknowledge with gratitude the efforts made for our families. Know that you have had an impact on every family you have supported over these extraordinary times. Thank you.

An appreciation, also, for the efforts of Board Director Kris Peach, who has fulfilled the role of interim CEO for an extended period of this past ten months. As an organisation we were fortunate in having Kris' experience and willingness to step into an operational role while we searched for our new CEO. Whilst not without precedent, as we have had the great fortune of having our Directors take up operational duties from time to time, this has been a longer commitment than we could have anticipated.

The Board also extends its thanks to Directors we have farewelled this year – Roslyn Rule, Leslie Annear, and Sarah Witty. We appreciate your efforts and hope you have continued finding fulfillment and enjoyment in your other pursuits. Thanks also to the indefatigable outgoing Chair, Meredith Carter, who remains with us as a Director. The Board is always searching for Directors to fulfill our voluntary governance roles, and we welcome both those with lived experience of Out of Home Care and those with previous relevant qualifications and experience in a variety of capacities.

And to that end, I thank my colleague Directors for your support and efforts during this past year. There is gentle excitement as we now set a strategic course to ensure PCA Families' ongoing viability and evolution.

I commend to you all the 2022 Annual Report and trust you will continue to support our vision, mission and ultimately, our commitment to our families and the children in their care.

Naomi Colville
Chair
PCA Families

From the interim CEO Kris Peach



Despite COVID-19, we have continued to make good progress in achieving our strategies, as set out below. We are delighted to inform you that our membership increased by 20% to 2,603 (2021: 2,153). This was largely achieved through working more closely with a private Facebook group to reach new parents/carers and a mailout in July 2021 by the Department Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) which reached many new parents/carers.

Our small but dedicated team of 14 (9 Full Time Equivalent) continued delivering our essential Helpline and Flexible Funding services, with ongoing funding from DFFH. We also commenced supporting young people on Permanent Care Orders transition to independence by linking them with Better Futures providers from October 2021 through ongoing funding from DFFH.

In recent times we have started to make greater use of technology in delivering our services. An example of this is our new website forms. However, services this year have been impacted by the economic conditions and lingering impacts of COVID-19, as the complexity of the queries and applications have increased. We continue to invest in new systems and the professional development of our team to provide more efficient and effective services.

Despite the challenges we have:

- distributed all \$3 million Flexible Funds available;
- dealt with 18,606 calls in and out (helpline – 2,507, Flexible Funding – 8,547);
- connected 136 young people to Better Futures;
- run two parent/carers retreats and the inaugural Edmund Rice Trauma Informed Family Camp;
- provided 30 peer support sessions, with a mix of virtual and face to face; and
- created 23 YouTube recordings of lived experience or informed practice.

I would like to particularly thank:

- Foster Care Association of Victoria (FCAV) for helping us obtain additional DFFH funding to expand the Carer Assistance Program (CAP) they provide to permanent carers and adopted parents for 2022/23
- DFFH for additional COVID-19 specific funding to support new technology, an additional Helpline Advisor and set-up costs for the CAP.

Our research report "Permanency and Stability: The missing ingredients for Victoria's most vulnerable children" (November 2021) continues to receive positive feedback and provides a platform of evidence on which to build our advocacy positions. A copy of the report can be found on our website at www.pcafamilies.org.au/news-events/news/permanence-and-stability-the-missing-ingredients-for-victoria-s-most-vulnerable-children

Thank you to all our parents and carers who not only continued to support their families through some very challenging times, but also found time to provide us with feedback, case studies and advocacy issues, as well as participate in peer support initiatives.

Thank you also to our Alliance partners and colleagues in government for collaborating with us to achieve systems change and improvements based on the priorities and experiences of our members.

Many thanks to our Board, PCA Families Team and Volunteers for your outstanding contributions this year. Thank you also to Lisa Milani, our outgoing CEO for her energy and drive to improve our branding and impact. We wish you well with your young family. Thanks also to Amanda Bresnan for her time as Interim CEO.

It has been a wonderful privilege to see the passion and dedication of our team to help improve the lives of our permanent care and adopted families.

Kris Peach
Interim Chief Executive Officer
PCA Families

PCA Families' members and client profile

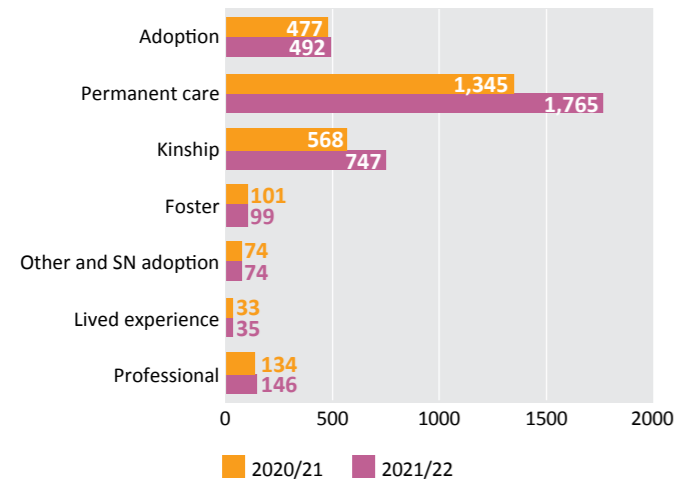
Membership profile

The majority of our 2,603 (2021: 2,153) members at 30 June 2022 continue to be Permanent Carers 68% (2021: 62%), with 19% (2021: 22%) Adoptive Parents, and 29% (2021: 26%) Kinship Carers. Only 1% (2021: 2%) have Lived Experience as permanent care or adopted children and 6% (2021: 6%) are Professional members. A member can be noted as more than one type, with 25% (2021: 22%) being Permanent Carers who are also Kinship Carers.

There were 466 new members in 2022 (2021: 177) due to the DFFH mailout in July 2021, and a review of our CRM records. 93% (2020: 80%) were Permanent Carers, 39% (2020: 36%) were Kinship Carers and 3% (2020: 8%) were Adoptive Parents. Thirty-seven percent (2020: 30%) were both Permanent Carers and Kinship Carers.

Geographically our membership is more orientated to outer Melbourne suburbs and regional towns with the top ten suburbs being: Mildura, Pakenham, Sunbury, Shepparton, Wodonga, Craigieburn, Traralgon, Frankston, and Werribee.

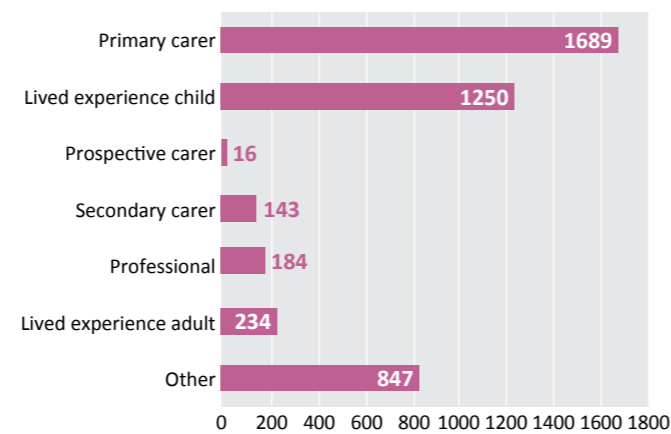
Total members at 30 June 2022



Member profile

The client by type graph below shows that we have 1,250 young people (Lived experience child) who have or are receiving Flexible Funding. 228 are over 18 years and now categorised as Lived experience adults. Most other clients are Primary Carers. The high number of "other" is due to data collection changes.

Clients by type 30 June 2022



Programs and services

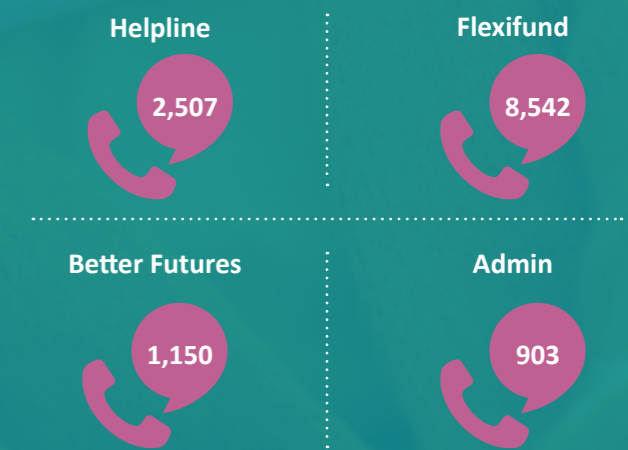
Helpline Program

PCA Families Helpline is a free, independent, and confidential service, offering short term support, practical information, advocacy, and referrals to other services. Our approach is child-centered, family-focussed and trauma-informed. The Helpline, which is not intended to be a crisis service, continues to receive calls from families with a range of concerns, questions, and issues. Child behavior, childhood trauma, and financial hardship remain the most reported reasons for calling. "Placement crisis" and "Placement under duress or danger of breakdown" remained constant at 10% of the calls.

The impact of COVID-19 on the mental health of both young people and their carers was amplified by difficulties in finding appropriate trauma informed health services, without an excessive waiting time. The Victorian Government's announcement in response to the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System of the establishment of Mental Health Hubs and State-wide Trauma Services will hopefully alleviate some of the pressure on the existing system.

We are investing in a new Client database to be linked to our phone system to improve our data relating to Helpline calls and investigating ways of more efficiently providing routine information and support.

Total calls* 2022



*In and out excluding missed calls

The top 15 areas of helpline queries in 2022 from highest to lowest were:

1. Flexible funding
2. Childhood behaviour
3. Placement under duress/danger of breakdown
4. Childhood trauma
5. Financial hardship
6. Health and child wellbeing of child
7. General information
8. School education
9. Legal
10. Birth family contact
11. Emotional support
12. DFFH query/support
13. Safety and vulnerability of child
14. Parenting
15. Transition to permanent care

Contacts and calls

The 18,606 (2021: 5,721 for five months) total phone calls we received for the year ending 30 June 2022 were split evenly between in and out calls. Total calls excluding missed calls were 13,048 (2021: 4641 for five months). We are currently investigating new ways of scheduling appointments to help relieve the pressure of the increased volume of calls on our small team of Advisors (3 FTE).

Calls are tagged by program, with the majority relating to Flexible Funding applications. Calls often relate to multiple programs. Over the six months from 1 Feb to 1 July 2022, there were 473 (2021: 509) calls per employee, with an average talking time of six (2021: five) minutes.

“Thank you for your kind and encouraging words and support financially and mentally. You have allowed my husband and I to concentrate on keeping everyone happy and well.”

Flexible Funds

PCA Families and OzChild, on behalf of the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, distribute Flexible Funding to support families with Victorian children on a Permanent Care Order, Family Court Order, or Special Needs Adoption who are in receipt of the DFFH care allowance.

The Flexible Funding Alliance of OzChild, Foster Care Association of Victoria (FCAV), Kinship Care Victoria (KCV), Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA), the Mirabel Foundation, CREATE Foundation and PCA Families provides oversight of the program.

\$3.068 million was distributed for the year ended 30 June 2022; this includes \$2.7 million annual funds and the “one-off” COVID-19 specific funds. Pleasingly, the budgeted amounts for First Nations families have been fully expended for the last two years.

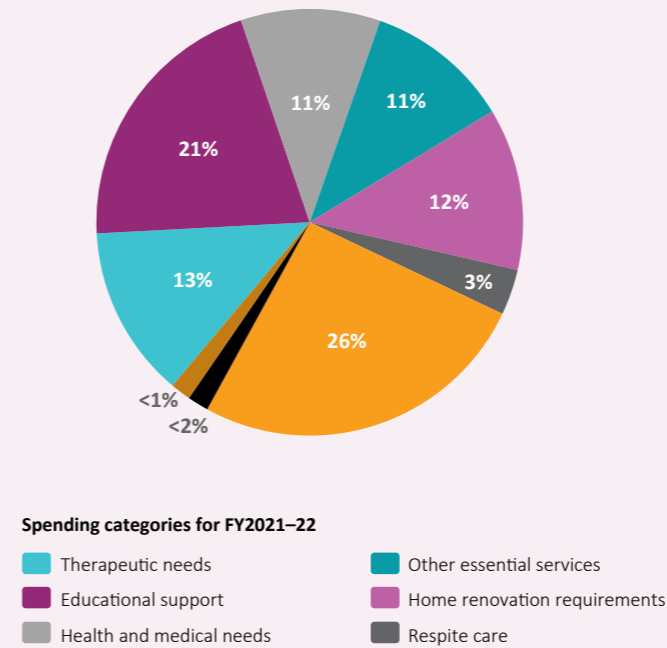
Applications paid increased 10% to 1,282 (2021: 1,170) due to more parents/carers hearing about the program and the difficult economic circumstances requiring additional financial support. Total invoices paid also increased 24% from 1,739 to 2,152.

The average processing time for applications paid in the year increased from 29 days to 42 days. The decline results from the significant increase in applications, and increased complexity of applications taking longer to process (more invoices per application and higher value items being requested requiring more supporting materials from relevant professionals). The number of invoices paid per staff per day has remained constant at 1.8. We are investigating ways to improve the processing time.

The funds continue to be spent mostly on education, health and medical needs and therapeutic support (counselling etc), with the objective of supporting families to stay together and provide opportunities for young people to develop their skills and expand their experiences. There are significant differences in the categories between First Nation applications and others, indicating different economic and geographic factors.

“Please continue with the good work you do you really do help families especially the kids so that they have what other families have.”

Indigenous percentage of spend by category

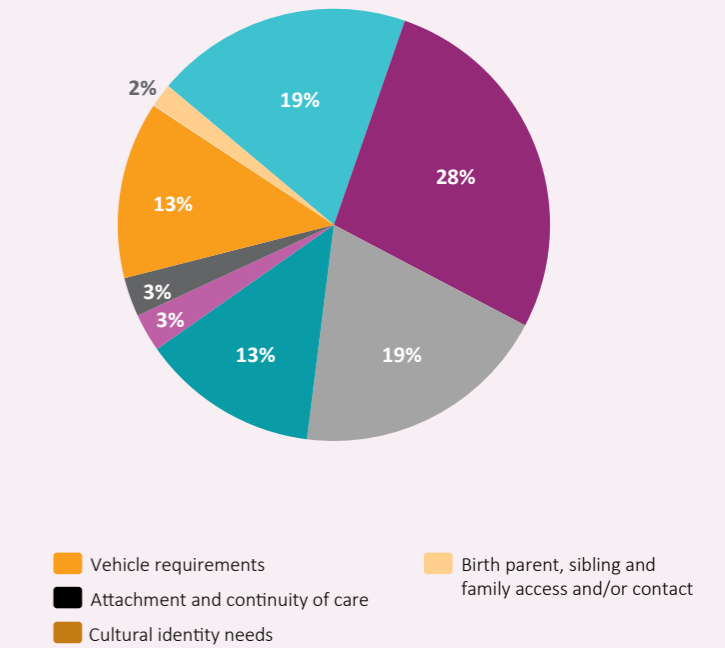


Spending categories for FY2021-22

- Therapeutic needs
- Educational support
- Health and medical needs
- Other essential services
- Home renovation requirements
- Respite care

Comment: This financial year, the majority funding is being directed to Vehicle requirements (26%). Educational support (21%), Therapeutic needs (13%), and Home renovation (12%) make up the majority of the balance.

Non-indigenous percentage of spend by category



- Vehicle requirements
- Attachment and continuity of care
- Cultural identity needs
- Birth parent, sibling and family access and/or contact

Comment: This financial year, the majority funding is being directed to Educational support (28%), Therapeutic needs (19%), Health and medical expenses (19%), and Vehicle requirements (13%)

Since the funding started in 2016, most families have received less than \$10,000. Several families with multiple children with disabilities have received significant funding (mostly received before NDIS). Most families have made less than five applications, however 34 have made more than 25 applications, indicating a small number of families need significant financial assistance.

104 clients completed the Flexible Funding satisfaction survey for the 2021/2022 financial year (39 from 11 May to 30 June 2021). The majority found the application easy or very easy to complete.

100% of families said their children had benefited from the funding.

65% said the funding was important or essential to keeping the placement going.

Better Futures

The successful advocacy by PCA Families and others to extend the DFFH funded Better Futures program to young people on a Permanent Care Order (PCO) older than 15 years and nine months, provides them with a Development Coach, information, support, Flexible Funding and the Homestretch allowance from 18 to 21 (paid to the carer if the young person remains at home or as an independent living allowance). Without Better Futures, the DFFH care allowance ceases when the young person reaches 18. PCA Families is monitoring the program to ensure it is meeting young person and carer needs.

Since inception in October 2021, PCA Families has contacted 688 young people on PCOs via phone, email, or mostly letters and linked 136 to DFFH funded Better Futures (BF) providers, a 20% success rate. A total of 1,587 introductory and follow up letters have been sent by PCA Families.

“My discussion with the advisor today was fabulous. They were supportive, informative and caring. I appreciated their time enormously.”

Peer support

Click and Connect

147 parents and carers attended the 18 fortnightly virtual daytime *Click and Connect* sessions (average eight per session). Consistent with 2021, attendances were lower when parents and carers were not in lock-down.

Attendees valued the small group connections enabling them to share and learn from each other. Feedback indicated the small group format has been critical to mental health and wellbeing and interest in meeting face to face as a closed format group to continue the evolving connection within the group.



Photo: snap from Click and Connect

Share and Connect (formerly Journal Club)

271 (2021: 346) parents and carers attended the ten (2021: eleven) *Share and Connect* Thursday night monthly sessions. The virtual *Share and Connect* sessions have continued to consistently attract higher average numbers per session than face to face only, with regional parents and carers able to attend. On average between 30–40 parents register their attendance each month and 80% of those registered attend. The topics and speaker continue to be key drivers of attendance.

New facilitators have been identified during the current year, and various forms of training provided, so that the current facilitators can have a well deserved break. We gratefully thank Mary Natoli, Chris Cooke and Cas O'Neill, founding members of PCA Families (previously Post Placement Support Service VIC Inc.), for their outstanding contributions as facilitators since then.

“Great to connect with people who UNDERSTAND and be able to vent without judgement”.

An evening with Joel de Carteret

Due to popular demand, we invited Joel de Carteret and his mum Julie for an evening discussing growing up adopted in Australia. Joel's remarkable story finding his birth mother in a city of 20 million after being lost at a Filipino market at the age of six is fraught with mixed emotions. Joel shared some harsh realities and feelings he has as an adoptee and didn't gloss over feelings of rejection, loss, loneliness, shame, not knowing where you fit in, identity; being born to one country but growing up in another surrounded by predominantly white Australians. *“Healing is a life long process and belonging to a community and being of service to others is a segue to healing. Finding people who you trust and immersing yourself in mother nature as well as finding therapies that work for you, whether it be talking therapies, art, sound healing or spirituality is a stepping stone forward.”*



Photo: Joel de Carteret

Let's connect

Face to face peer support facilitated by PCA Families employees commenced again in May 2022 with a session in Ballarat. Ten carers attended and were provided with various support including help with completing Flexible Funding applications. Carers expressed interest in continuing face to face sessions in the future.

“Thanks so much for some wonderful bonding time as a couple. It was wonderful to connect with like minded people and see that we are all in the same position.”

Carer retreats

Adoption retreat

The second adoption carer retreat, run by carer KaFÉ, funded by PCA Families was a great success attended by 21 parents in June 2022 held at Daylesford amongst vineyards and natural springs. Commencing with Troy Firebrace a proud Dja Dja man explaining Aboriginal culture; it was illuminating to see similar threads between permanent care and adopted families who are often raising children with different cultures, backgrounds and traditions. Our guest presenters for the weekend were Joel de Carteret, adoptee from the Philippines and Emily Hikaiti who grew up in out of home care. They shared their experience and discussed with parents the challenges of growing up in a different country and those not raised by their birth parents.

- **85%** believed the training gave them new tools and/or skills to better support the child/young person in their care
- **89%** felt that the retreat responded to their needs in supporting the children in their care
- **90%** felt more confident and supported in caring for their child/young person
- **100%** felt better connected to other parents.



Photo: Adoption retreat

Edmund Rice Family Camp

Family camps provide much needed support and respite for carers; behavioural and social support for children and an opportunity for families to share experiences in a positive environment.

The inaugural PCA Families and Edmund Rice Camps five day family camp was attended by four permanent care families in June/July 2022. The camp, funded by Flexible Funding is designed to provide family attachment, carer respite and young person focus. The Camp leaders/volunteers provided one to one mentoring, along with social and behavioural support to the children. Outcomes for children included strengthening their social skills and building their confidence, which are understood as important protective factors for building resilience and managing life's stressors. Children made connections with their peers and volunteers, and some were found to increase their participation in activities over the course of the program, with six out of eight children reporting they could see themselves as a Camp Leader one day and six out of nine learning about good behaviour by observing the volunteers.

Permanent care retreat

The inaugural permanent carer retreat was attended by 33 carers in November 2021, funded by Carer KaFÉ.

The overwhelming feedback from all the various retreats is the significant benefit of respite and the importance of sharing with others who understand the Permanent Care and Adoptive families experience. We will be using the outcomes of these retreats to seek new funding sources.

- **96%** believed the training gave them new tools and/or skills to better support the child/young person in their care
- **100%** felt that the retreat responded to their needs in supporting the children in their care
- **92%** felt more confident and supported in caring for their child/young person
- **96%** felt better connected to other parents.

100% of participants would recommend the retreat to others.



Photo: Permanent care retreat



Photo: Edmund Rice family camp

“I am so grateful that our family was able to have this life changing experience. As a carer it has been absolutely amazing to spend 5 days not having to think about and plan out everything while also trying to manage difficult behaviours.”



Communications

YouTube

A total of 23 podcasts of lived experience and research informed practices were shared during 2021/2022. Recordings covered community kinship care, equine and dog therapy, grandparents of their adoptees' children, culture and cross-cultural care, behaviour management, emotional literacy, therapeutic life story work, therapeutic parenting, same sex parenting, coregulation, connection and safety in care, abuse, oral health, and prenatal exposure impacting on attachment and a range of therapies including neuro development therapy, play therapy, somatic and sensorimotor therapy and art therapy.

Of particular note is the recording with adoptee and well-known surfer Layne Beachley. Parents and carers have commented on the importance for their children of role models that have navigated adoption or other care and succeeded. Layne highlights how winning and success were driven from adoption fear and how important it is for adoptees to recognise they were accepted not rejected.

Member communications

Weekly communication updates covered peer support, COVID-19, mental health, funding and grants, YouTube recordings, Better Futures and Home Stretch and a variety of other trauma informed resources. Over 1,000 members (almost 50% each time) access each update (2021: over 500 members per update). Members clearly appreciate the easy to use one click source update.

Facebook

Facebook followers has grown from 800 to 919 during the year. Followers engage strongly with the positive wellbeing and trauma related content, sources of funding and support around mental health and behaviour management related to their situations. Facebook content helps parents/carers bring friends and families into their lives with a blend of light inclusive content and serious subject matter.

“What you have put together in terms of the YouTube Channel and the respectful and informed way in which Sonia holds the space is nothing short of fantastic. The recordings offer parents and carers a wonderful library to dip into in those moments of need.”

Linda Cooke, Adoptive Parent

From the Chair, Finance, Audit and Risk Committee Judy Gouldbourn

Firstly, I would like to extend thanks to Roslyn Rule who has stepped down from the role of Treasurer for PCA Families after three years in the role. Assuming the role of Acting Chair of the Finance, Audit and Risk (FAR) Committee has been a steep learning curve. However, I am pleased to report that PCA Families remains in a strong financial position with net assets at 30 June 2022 of over \$660,000, which will enable us to pursue our strategic objectives.



The current year surplus of \$163,399 is largely attributable to DFFH not requiring prior year unspent government grants liabilities to be repaid, enabling these to be recognised as revenue in the current year. COVID-19 restrictions again prevented us from spending all these monies.

All current year grants for Helpline, Better Futures and Flexible Funding administration were fully expended, mostly on wages for our hardworking and dedicated team. Additional COVID-19 specific funding was fully spent on technology improvements, an additional helpline advisor and set up costs for the Carer Assistance Program.

Expenditure on wages was impacted by additional recruitment and a SCHADS Award increase during this period, however, significantly less was spent on consultants and contractors over the same period.

Specific activities of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee included a comprehensive review of the Terms of Reference, appointment of new auditors, Crowe for 2023, and more detailed analysis of program financial outcomes by fully allocating expenses based on employee time.

The financial statements overview included in this report has been extracted from the PCA Families' Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2022. The financial statements have been prepared as General-Purpose Financial Statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Australian Charities and *Not for Profit Commission Act 2012*. PCA Families thanks outgoing auditors Connect National Audit for their audit of PCA Families financial statements.

The full financial statements are available on our website www.pcafamilies.org.au/about/reports

Judy Gouldbourn
Chair, Finance, Audit and Risk Committee
PCA Families

Income Statement	30 June 2022	30 June 2021
For the year ended 30 June 2022	\$	\$
Revenue	1,345,784	1,003,455
Interest revenue calculated using the effective interest method	2,833	2,681
Expenses		
Administration expenses	(176,157)	(158,725)
Rent expenses	(23,416)	(15,043)
Employee benefits and consulting	(933,668)	(808,962)
Depreciation and amortisation expense	(7,975)	(9,957)
Other expenses	(44,001)	(38,889)
Surplus before income tax expense	163,399	(25,439)
Income tax expense	–	–
Surplus after income tax expense for the year attributable to the members of Permanent Care & Adoptive Families	163,399	(25,439)

Balance Sheet	30 June 2022	30 June 2021
For the year ended 30 June 2022	\$	\$
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	791,417	850,510
Trade and other receivables	64,097	8,537
Total current assets	855,514	859,047
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	12,704	15,442
Total non-current assets	12,704	15,442
Total assets	868,218	874,490
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	146,299	343,257
Employee benefits	67,984	40,697
Total current liabilities	214,283	343,257
Total Liabilities	214,283	383,954
Net assets	653,935	490,536
Equity – members’ funds		
Reserves	–	–
Retained surpluses	653,935	490,535
Total equity members’ funds	653,935	490,535

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

We have audited the financial report of Permanent Care & Adoptive Families Inc, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity, the statement of cash flows, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the responsible entity' declaration.

In our opinion the financial report of Permanent Care & Adoptive Families Inc has been prepared in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*, and *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2022 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures of the Australian Accounting Standards Board as disclosed in Note 1.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the registered entity in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*, and *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibility of the Responsible Entity for the Financial Report

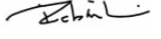
The responsible entity of the registered entity is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*, and *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012* and the needs of the members. The responsible entity's responsibility also includes such internal control as the responsible entity determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the responsible entity is responsible for assessing the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the responsible entity either intend to liquidate the registered entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.


 Robin King Heng Li CPA CA
 Director
 Connect National Audit Pty Ltd
 ASIC Authorised Audit Company No.: 521888
 Melbourne, Victoria
 24 October 2022

Connect National Audit Pty Ltd is an Authorised Audit Company

ABN 43 605 713 040

Head Office: Level 8, 350 Collins St, Melbourne VIC 3000

Gold Coast Office: Level 9, Wyndham Corporate Centre

1 Corporate Court, Bundall QLD 4217

+613 9592 2357 | +617 5580 4700

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Significant financial contributor

Ashwini Chandra

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Chrissie Davies
Jacinta Foster-Raimondo
Kaisey Hayes
Kristi Lambert
Linda Cooke
Mary Natoli
Shae Baxter

Suppliers

ACT Group; Gregory Nicolau
Amovita; Tracey Harris, Elyse Leonard
Bendigo Bank
Converge – employee assistance program
Changesmith Consulting; Cath Smith
Community Data Solutions; Shelley Smith
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Rapid Impact; Sue Kelsall
vandeStadt design; Kate vandeStadt

Key stakeholders

Adopt Change; Renee Carter
Anglicare Victoria
Australian Childhood Foundation
Australian Childhood Trauma Group
Berry Street Victoria
Berry Street Shepparton
Bethany Family Service (Geelong)
Brophy Youth and Family Services (Warrnambool)
Brotherhood of St Laurence; Joe Howie
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Kildonan Family Services
Kinship Carers Victoria; Anne McLeish, Naomi Whaley

MacKillop Family Services
Mirabel Foundation; Angelina Keskerides, Elizabeth McCrea
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We would like to thank and acknowledge the support of



Families, Fairness and Housing

There are many ways you can make a difference in the lives of permanent care and adoptive families

PCA Families exists to support strong, stable families who have the support they need to provide nurturing and permanent homes for the children and young people who come into their care through permanent care, kinship care or adoption. We know first-hand that the journey for families is rewarding but not always easy.



How your support will make a difference

Supporting PCA Families will enable us to continue to develop and roll out programs that promote strong and stable families through parenting and peer support services that directly benefit children, young people and their families. It will also support us to continue our advocacy work to improve the lived experience of permanent care and adoptive families.

How you can get involved

There are many ways you can play an important part in helping us to support our community.

Donate

You can donate online at www.givenow.com.au/pcafamilies. Donations over \$2.00 are tax-deductible.

Regular giving

Monthly giving is an effective way to ensure PCA Families can sustain our vital programs and services to the permanent care and adoptive community. You can become one of our regular givers at www.givenow.com.au/pcafamilies.

Include

a gift in your Will to PCA Families when you are planning your estate, or donate in memory or celebration of a loved one.

Host

a fundraising event to bring the community together and raise essential funds to support permanent care and adoptive families. This could involve:

- Fun runs, marathons or other sporting adventures
- Dress-up days or movie nights
- Sausage sizzles or bake offs
- Art exhibitions or trivia nights

See here if you're interested in organising an event: www.pcafamilies.org.au/support-us/fundraising-campaigns

Volunteer

We welcome applications to join us as a volunteer. Visit www.pcafamilies.org.au/about/employment-volunteering to view the volunteering positions that are currently available.

Join our team

Work with our small, dedicated and skilled team who are passionate about supporting strong and stable permanent care and adoptive families. See www.pcafamilies.org.au/about/employment-volunteering for more information.

Become a member

It's free! See www.pcafamilies.org.au/membership for more information about member benefits and to sign up.

Get social

Follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn to keep in touch with the work we're doing!



Thank you for your continued support of PCA Families.



Ross House, 247-251 Flinders Lane, Melbourne 3000 | 03 9020 1833 | info@pcafamilies.org.au



www.pcafamilies.org.au

ABN: 50 562 164 576