

# COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

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**Flexi-Funding**

ADDITIONAL COSTS OF CARE

**Better Futures**

INDEPENDENCE, EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT

**Helpine**

REFERRALS, ADVOCACY

**CAP**

CARER ASSISTANCE

Permanent  
Care and  
Adoptive  
Families



EVENTS

Click & Connect  
Wed 21/6/23

Share & Connect  
Thurs 3/8/23



## News - Petition to Increase the Care Allowance

PCA Families together with Foster Care Association Victoria are demanding better for carers.

### Enough is enough

Carers are already volunteering their hearts and homes to provide care to young people who need them, while the care allowance rate is falling in real value by the month.

Carers are forced to pay out of pocket expenses on essentials like food, bills and services because they will not let the children in their care go without.

### No contingency to increase the allowance in the last budget

Despite years of advocacy by carers and peak bodies, as well as a KPMG report on the Allowance (that the Government has kept cabinet-in-confidence) which provides evidence of the shortfall, carers are still bearing the true costs of care.

### We are demanding better

We will send a letter to Minister Blandthorn and Treasurer Pallas demanding a better outcome for carers. See [here](#). We invite you to add your name to this petition to show that we're not alone in expecting better for carers and the children and young people in their care. Please sign the petition [here](#).

**The Victorian care allowance is too low to cover the costs of living.**

**Volunteer carers are paying to provide care.**

**Sign the Care Allowance Petition!**

## News - Permanent Carers with 16-23yo Children

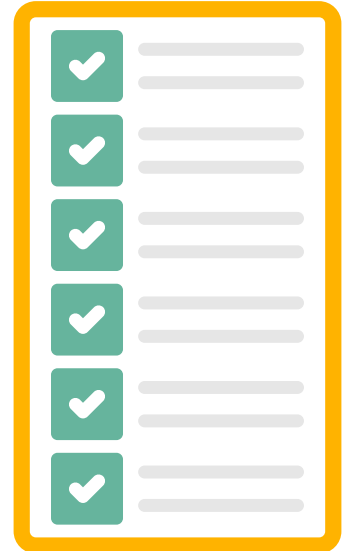
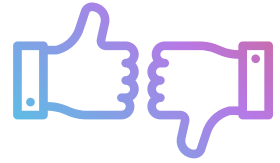
The Better Futures and Homestretch program which provides support to young people as they get older is being independently evaluated. The Centre for Evaluation and Research Evidence invites **permanent carers of 16-23 year old children** to complete their survey to understand how the program is working.

You have the opportunity to share your valuable lived experience of

- the young person's transition from care between the ages of 16 to 23 and
- the Better Futures and Homestretch program.

The online survey takes between 5 to 15 minutes to complete and you remain anonymous (no names or identifiers are collected). The survey will remain open until 16 June 2023. This survey is for carers of young people aged between 16-23 years only, because their young people are or were eligible for the Better Futures and Homestretch program.

Find the survey links [here](#).



## News - Tailored Trauma Support

Tailored support can make a difference to children who have experienced trauma.

Twins Beth and Jess needed different support to flourish after being exposed to family violence.

Their trauma survival responses differed as was very obvious in their classroom.

Jess stabbed her teacher with a pencil.

Her twin Beth would look for places to hide.

Learning to calm their own minds in specific ways helped them to move forward from their trauma.

Read more about their journey [here](#) with the Alannah & Madeline Foundation.



**"Delivering trauma informed services that empower"**

# News - Crawling is Not Just for Babies

Exercise physiologist Robyn Papworth from Play, Move, Improve shares a number of benefits of crawling for babies, including:

- crossing the midline: for neural connections in the brain (and for phonemic awareness to identify sounds and words)
- spatial awareness: an important skill for reading by understanding and manipulating visual images like letters
- vestibular stimulation: to help with eye movement and visual tracking so that when children read, the words don't feel like they are moving on the page.

By improving gross motor skills, academic skills can be made easier. So add a crawling activity today or find ideas by joining Robyn's webinar Monday 19 June 8.00pm [here](#).



## Events - Click & Connect Peer Support

TOPIC: SHARE A HUMOROUS STORY ABOUT YOUR CHILD

DATE: Wednesday 21 June 12.00 to 1.00pm



TOPIC: Share a humorous story about your child. Do you have something that seemed concerning at the time but turned out to be funny or a blessing? Perhaps they are stories that have come to a conclusion. Perhaps the ending to the story is still not clear. Wherever you are in your funny story, it will help us lift our spirits and enjoy a coffee as we chat through the realities of parenting our children. Lets share our personal stories.

REGISTER: [here](#) via Zoom Link

## Carer Assistance Program - Therapeutic Support

Self referral available [here](#).

## DFFH Flexible Funding - Funding Additional Needs

Further information available [here](#).

## Helpline - Information, support and referrals

Further information available [here](#).

## Better Futures and Home Stretch - Support to 21

Find out more [here](#).

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