



# COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

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## EVENTS

Click & Connect  
Wed 21/6/23

Share & Connect  
Thurs 3/8/23

**Flexi-Funding**

ADDITIONAL COSTS OF CARE

**Better Futures**

INDEPENDENCE, EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT

**Helpine**

REFERRALS, ADVOCACY

**CAP**

CARER ASSISTANCE



## News - Inquiry Launched into Unpaid Carers

A Parliamentary committee has adopted an inquiry into the recognition of unpaid carers following a referral from the Minister for Social Services, the Honorary Amanda Rishworth MP. The committee is seeking written submissions, ideally of no more than ten pages, from individuals and organisations relating to any or all of the inquiry terms of reference by Friday, 11 August 2023. Find out more about the inquiry [here](#).

Note, the Committee is not considering the adequacy of carers' payments.

The committee invites individuals and organisations to send in their opinions and proposals in writing. For help with preparing a submission see [here](#).

## News - Creating Calmer Emergency Spaces

Across five of Victoria's busiest hospitals, treatment rooms are being designed and built just for children. They are designed with children and families in mind: walls are painted with muted colours, with fun decals at child height. These spaces also maximise natural light and minimise noise. Sensory rooms provide kids with adjustable lighting, video and audio – so families can adjust and control their own environment.

The program will help meet the growing demand for paediatric emergency care, reduce wait times and provide more personalised care for children. Find out more [here](#).



## News - Carer Assistance Program Video

The Carer Assistance Program which offers counselling support to explore a range of situations and experiences had by carers will continue to be delivered over the next 12 months by the Foster Care Association Victoria. Funding has been secured thanks to the overwhelmingly positive feedback.

As such, FCAV have decided to produce a short three-minute video to further promote the value of this service for foster and permanent carers across Victoria. The video aims to highlight carers experiences of the support received and is intended to offer authentic, honest reflections from service users about how it may have assisted in promoting their wellbeing.



**You are invited to express your interest to volunteer to participate in this video.**

It is anticipated that carers will be asked a few questions focussed on their experience with CAP. Carers will not be expected to share confidential details and can request to be unidentifiable, if preferred, with creative editing. If this were something you would consider, please contact FCAV no later than **Thursday 30th June**. Please call FCAV on **9416 4292** and ask to speak with Tessa Hughes or email [Tessa t.hughes@fcav.org.au](mailto:Tessa.t.hughes@fcav.org.au). if you are interested, or if you have any questions regarding this project.

## News - Petition to Increase the Care Allowance

PCA Families together with the Foster Care Association Victoria 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](#).

**What are we petitioning for?** We are demanding better.

**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.

**Increase the Care Allowance:** 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.



## News - Hold My Hand

Hold my Hand is a training program supporting biological and permanent care children of parents/carers that aims to help parents/carers who care for children to understand the challenges their young people face. Hold My Hand brings together both parents and children in a fun interactive safe space in which to explore the caring experience. The overall aim is to empower all participants.



### HOLD MY HAND

Friday 30th June 10.30am to 3pm



**When?** Friday 30 June 10.30am-3.00pm

**Where?** CERES Rooms, Brunswick East

**Registration?** email [Deb](mailto:Deb_at_d.collard@fcav.org.au) at [d.collard@fcav.org.au](mailto:d.collard@fcav.org.au)

**Costs?** Morning tea and lunch will be provided. Regional carers accommodation and travel can be covered by Carer KaFE

## 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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PCA Families, Level 1, Suite 6, 69-71 Rosstown Road, Carnegie 3163  
[info@pcfamilies.org.au](mailto:info@pcfamilies.org.au) [www.pcfamilies.org.au](http://www.pcfamilies.org.au) 03 9020 1833

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