

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

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Permanent
Care and
Adoptive
Families



EVENTS

Click & Connect
Wed 21/7/23

Share & Connect
Thurs 3/8/23

Flexi-Funding

ADDITIONAL COSTS OF CARE

Better Futures

INDEPENDENCE, EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT

Helpine

REFERRALS, ADVOCACY

CAP

CARER ASSISTANCE



News - Australian Child Maltreatment Study



The Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare (CFECFW) has joined Federal and State Government and social services sector leaders calling for a coordinated national effort to end child maltreatment.

The Australian Child Maltreatment Study, undertaken by a consortium of research led by the Queensland University of Technology, shows that child maltreatment is widespread in Australia, and is having devastating consequences for their mental health and health risk behaviours now, and as adults.

CFECFW's CEO Deb Tsorbaris said we have long known and struggled with the fact that many children in Australia experience abuse and neglect during childhood. "What we didn't know, until the release of the study in April this year, was the extent of the problem," she said.

Child maltreatment is also a gendered problem disproportionately affecting girls. **More than one in three girls experienced child sexual abuse (37.3 percent): twice the rate of boys.** More than one in three girls also experienced emotional abuse (35.7 percent): 1.4 times the rate of boys.

The consequences of child maltreatment in Australia can be seen in the concerning rates of self-harm among young adults, with those who experienced any form of child maltreatment being 3.5 times more likely than their peers to have self-harmed in the previous year, and 4.5 times more likely to have attempted suicide.

"For a country that prides itself on being progressive and punching above its weight in so many different cultural and sporting arenas internationally, **Australia performs poorly when it comes to child maltreatment rates.**

"We will continue to fail our children and young people if we can't respond quickly to these findings," Ms Tsorbaris said. CFECFW is calling for a national, coordinated approach to ensure we are raising children who are safe, nurtured, and able to thrive. "Given the vulnerability of girls to sexual and emotional abuse, we need to strengthen our approach to the teaching of respectful relationships. "We need a reset of gender norms that spreads beyond schools and deep into our communities, and we need to look at the relationships and attitudes to women we are modelling to young people – in our media, in parliament, in workplaces, and in homes."

Through its gold-standard evidence base, the ACMS research gives us a chance to have a national conversation about our children and to use the research to guide our actions. It also gives us a clear blueprint for action, which is something policymakers and the child services sector have not had before.

"Thanks to this study we know exactly where to direct our energy, where the most urgent needs lie, and where we can have the most immediate short and long-term impacts." Click here for [more](#) information.



News - National Mental Health Commission Youth Digital Survey

The National Mental Health Commission is seeking to deepen the conversation around digital technologies and mental health to better understand what parts of technology use are helpful or harmful. Where digital technologies simultaneously present opportunities and challenges, the Commission is working on recommendations that maximise potential benefits and minimise potential harms for young people.

To prompt discussion, youth advisory and expert groups have provided input to the Commission's detailed paper on relevant topics. To find out more, or to take the survey click on the link below.

How is digital technology impacting young people's mental health? You can have Your Say - National Mental Health Commission.

Read [more](#)

Flexible Funding - Applications open on July 1

Thank you for your patience while we completed all the applications for the 2022/2023 financial year. It may take a couple of weeks more for the final payments to be processed, however you can call us after 17 July if you still have concerns or queries.

New applications can be submitted from the 1st July and you can ring the Helpline if you have any other questions or require any additional support. We hope that you have had some time to enjoy the school holiday break with your families and we look forward to assisting and supporting you with your applications and queries over the next financial year.



News - Aboriginal health legislation Bill

On Tuesday 20 June 2023, The Children and Health Legislation Amendment (Statement of Recognition, Aboriginal Self-Determination and Other Matters) Bill 2023 was passed in Parliament by the Victorian Government.

The Bill introduces a Statement of Recognition and principles for all decision makers involved with Aboriginal children and their families in the child protection system.

The Bill recognises that Aboriginal people are best placed to make decisions and deliver services that protect the best interests of Aboriginal children. The Bill expands the role of Aboriginal agencies delivering children and family services, with the goal of reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal children in care in Victoria. Further information can be found [here](#)

Employment opportunities

CAP Worker

Carer Assistance Program (CAP) Worker – Permanent Care and Adoption (12 month contract).

An exciting opportunity has become available to join the Foster Care Association of Victoria's and PCA Families' Carer Assistance Program (CAP). The CAP offers therapeutic support to permanent carers and adoptive parents.

Read [more](#) here

Helpline Support Worker at PCA Families

We are seeking a Helpline Support Worker (0.4 Fixed Term Contract) to provide short term telephone consultations, support and advocacy, facilitating referrals and external services where relevant. You can read the position description [here](#)

To find out more or apply via, [Ethical Jobs](#) or [Pro Bono](#).



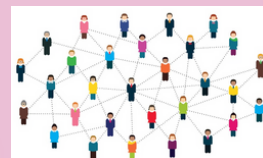
Events - Click & Connect Peer Support

TOPIC: STAYING CALM FOR STRONG BONDS

DATE: Wednesday 21 July 12.00 to 1.00pm

TOPIC: For those of you that like to read, Strongbonds is a website with useful information to help with supporting a young person. It may make the difference in your life when helping your young person. Find out more [here](#).

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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