

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

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Flexi-Funding

Better Futures

Helpine

CAP

ADDITIONAL COSTS OF CARE

INDEPENDENCE, EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT

REFERRALS, ADVOCACY

CARER ASSISTANCE

Permanent
Care and
Adoptive
Families



EVENTS

Share & Connect
Wed 6/9/23



Share and Connect - School Refusal



Date: **Wednesday 6 September, 2023 at 7.30pm to 9:30pm**

Register: **Here via [Zoom](#)**

Presenter: **John Chellew; Clinician, Speaker and Trainer in School Refusal**

Are you a caregiver or parent whose child has refused to go to school?

Join us for an informative session with John who discusses the best practices in approaching school refusal.

John has over 20 years' experience as a Mental Health Social Worker, a Bachelor of Social Work and a Postgraduate Diploma in Family Therapy, John has built a reputation for being the go-to counsellor for youth and adolescent social, behavioural and mental health issues where they are affecting school attendance or the school experience. School Refusal Clinic provides specialised support to young people of all backgrounds, abilities, and ages who are experiencing school attendance difficulties. They use a collaborative and multidisciplinary approach to work with students, parents, and schools to develop individualised return-to-school plans that resolve underlying issues preventing young people from engaging in their learning.

School Refusal Clinic has a unique model of practice where we believe that the best treatment outcomes arise when students are engaged and having fun in each session. That's why they provide many of consultations outside and with the help of therapy dog Max. They have found this approach benefits students with school attendance difficulties, those resisting traditional treatment options, and for neurodiverse students for whom therapy has not worked in the past.

Their practice incorporates outdoor exposure 'Walk and Talk' therapy, with animal-assisted therapy, child-focused parent support, individual and personal training, student coaching and homework support, and social skills groups. To read more about the School Refusal Clinic, visit <https://www.schoolrefusal.com.au/our-services>



Job opportunity - Business Development Manager

Are you excited to utilise your **Business Development and partnership building skills** to make a genuine impact on the lives of Permanent Care, Kinship Care and Adoptive Families?

Do you have a passion for building government, philanthropy, and corporate relationships to grow programs and services? If so, we invite you to join this fantastic team at PCAF who are working to support out of home care families to provide stable culturally relevant permanent homes for children and young people who cannot live with their birth families.

This is an excellent opportunity for a Business Development specialist from either the not for profit, or commercial space who is keen to utilise their skills to create a significant and positive impact.

Benefits of working at PCAF include:

- Up to three days additional leave over Christmas/New Year period
- Hybrid, flexible working arrangements
- Ongoing training and professional development opportunities
- A supportive and positive work environment
- Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
- Attractive not-for-profit salary packaging

As the Business Development Manager, you will:

- Work closely with the CEO to diversify and expand PCAF's revenue and grow our programs and services.
- Identify new opportunities and strengthen PCAF's relationships with existing and potential funding partners, sponsors, and donors.
- Develop successful high quality, innovative and creative tender, and grant applications.
- Lead the development and implementation of PCAF's Marketing and Engagement Strategy aimed at elevating brand awareness and supporting member advocacy priorities.
- Ensure that Business Development initiatives are underpinned by the lived experience of Permanent Care, Kinship Care and Adoptive families.

For more information:

If you would like to know more about this role, please contact Wendy Mason, CEO on 0499 617 106. We are keen to appoint as soon as possible.

To apply for this role please visit our [website](#)

Ted talk - with Nadine Burke Harris

How childhood trauma affects health across a lifetime

Childhood trauma isn't something you just get over as you grow up. Pediatrician Nadine Burke Harris explains that the repeated stress of abuse, neglect and parents struggling with mental health or substance abuse issues have real, tangible effects on the development of the brain.

This unfolds across a lifetime, to the point where those who've experienced high levels of trauma are at triple the risk for heart disease and lung cancer. An impassioned plea for pediatric medicine to confront the prevention and treatment of trauma, head-on.

Listen [here](#)



PCA Families Strategic Plan 2023-2026

The PCAF Board of Directors is delighted to share with you our new Strategic Plan. The Plan is a culmination of information gathered from online survey's, focus groups and workshops over the past six months and will guide what we do over the next three years. Thank-you to everyone who shared their thoughts and ideas throughout the process. We look forward to working with you and bringing the plan to life. You can see this on our [website](#)



Permanent Care and Adoptive Families (PCAF)

Strategic Plan

July 2023 to June 2026

Purpose:

We empower families to provide stable culturally relevant permanent homes for children and young people who cannot live with their birth families.

Our strategic intent is to:

- Aspire to achieve the highest quality in all our work and focus on delivering meaningful outcomes to the people that we serve
- Work to reduce inequalities and ensure that all children regardless of their order receive the support they need
- Address what needs to be done to create a service system that works for the people we serve
- Listen to the voices of those with lived experience and embed lived experience into all that we do
- Transform and strengthen the way we work and the value that we deliver to the people we serve

Strategic Pillars

Advocating and amplifying the voice of lived experience

PCAF will:

- Collaborate with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, communities, and organisations to ensure programs and services are determined by Aboriginal families, young people and children, and are culturally safe.
- Raise awareness about the importance of investment in Permanent Care, Kinship Care and Adoption
- Build the capacity of members to mobilise on the ground, grass roots local advocacy activities
- Work with people with lived experience and key stakeholders to influence government policy and sector reform
- Assist families to understand and navigate the service system

Increasing membership and developing a meaningful membership proposition

PCAF will:

- Develop a value proposition and suite of offerings that are meaningful to our membership
- Review and expand membership categories and consider a fee structure

Innovation and creating the evidence base

PCAF will:

- Partner for research and build the evidence of what works to enable best practice in programs and services
- Strengthen our position as a developer of 'greenfield' and innovative ideas with the capacity to conduct demonstration projects
- Influence, interpret and translate policy into action
- Make every effort to deliver meaningful outcomes for the people we serve in the most effective way possible

Growth and sustainability

PCAF will:

- Develop an effective Growth and Sustainability Strategy that will strengthen our market position, create efficiencies, diversify our revenue, explore alternative opportunities to improve our viability and increase access to services
- Raise, receive, and distribute funds in a manner that best attains PCAF's purpose
- Develop models that deliver financial sustainability over the long term
- Identify, build, and nurture strategic partnerships that add value to the work that we do

Investing in a capable organisation

PCAF will:

- Model integrity in governance in all organisational operations
- Build a workforce that is ready and enabled to accommodate growth, diversification, sector change and future ways of working
- Support a capable well-performing, responsive workforce and measure outcomes to assess workforce performance
- Achieve the highest quality in all our work and focus on delivering meaningful outcomes to the people that we serve
- Consolidate existing programs and services to ensure ongoing viability
- Ensure robust systems and processes, are embedded across the organisation

Recruitment - Board Positions

Call for nominations for Directors to be elected to the Board of Permanent Care and Adoptive Families Inc. at the Annual General Meeting on the 8th November 2023.

PCA Families is seeking to appoint up to three Directors, two who have personal and family connections to Permanent Care and Adoption and one of whom does not have involvement with permanent care and adoption but is interested in becoming a Director.

The following key skills have been identified for recruitment by the Board. Our hope is that the two Directors who have a personal and family connections to Permanent Care and Adoption will also be able to fill the skill gaps below:

- Marketing, media, and communications.
- Links to corporate sponsors and success in attracting sponsorships.
- Influencer-demonstrated links potential to funders. i.e., Government departments/philanthropy.
- Finance, risk management and technology.

The Board Director [position description](#) sets out further details of the role. To nominate:

Your nomination must be:

1. accompanied by a short biographical statement and your consent to nomination;
2. endorsed by one member other than yourself; and
3. given to PCA Families in writing.

All parts of the nomination form must be completed and signed. Your biographical statement will be distributed to all members eligible to vote at the AGM.

The nomination form is to be delivered to PCA Families by email to chair@pcafmailies.org.au or chris@pcafamilies.org.au or via post to Suite 6/Level 1, 69-71 Rosstown Road, Carnegie 3163 by no later than Friday 15th September 2023. Nominations received after this time will not be considered. Download the nominations form from our [website](#)

Calendar dates



AGM

PCA Families **AGM is on 8th November from 4.00 - 6.00pm**
Venue and guest speaker to be confirmed.



Q&A- Flexi funding

PCA Families is running Q&A sessions for each of our programs to provide you an opportunity to ask any questions or queries you have regarding our Flexible Funding program. All questions are welcome.

Time: **10.00 - 11.00am on Thursday 24 August**
Register: **via [zoom](#)**



Carer KaFE training

Clinical Psychologist Colby Pearce - Behaviour as Communication

AUGUST 28 at 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Join us for an enlightening training session with renowned Clinical Psychologist, Colby Pearce, as we learn about the intricacies of adolescent trauma and its impact on behaviour. This training aims to equip carers in understanding adolescents who have experienced a challenging start to life.

Key Focus Areas:

This session will shed light on the connection between early life experiences and the developing adolescent's behavior, emotions, and relationships. By exploring the following three key factors, carers will gain a deeper insight into the intricate web of trauma's effects:

Uncover how adolescents perceive and engage with themselves, others, and the world around them. Understand the role of attachment in shaping behavior and relationships, and learn strategies to support healthy attachment patterns

Gain insights into how trauma impacts an adolescent's perception of adult/ carers. Learn about the accessibility and responsiveness of adult figures in fulfilling the needs of traumatised adolescents.

Register [here](#)

3 part X 45min Lunch learning- Achieving Compassion Satisfaction Michael Place

AUGUST 29, 30 & SEPTEMBER 5 at 12.00pm.

Michael is a Wellbeing Educator and Advisor, who uses his personal story of navigating adverse childhood experiences in combination with his expertise in psychology to assist individuals and organisations in achieving optimal levels of productivity and wellbeing. He previously served as a trainer and currently serves as the Managing Director of his own practice,

Course description:

This session is designed for Carers who may be experiencing symptoms of compassion fatigue and want to find practical ways to find relief. Discover easy, sustainable, and evidence-based processes to manage your wellbeing while providing for care for your young people.

Attendees will be able to:

- Identify and troubleshoot symptoms of compassion fatigue
- Discover at least 4 practical ways to find relief
- Rediscover and reconnect with their passion for caring

Visit [here](#) for more info.

Carer Assistance Program - Therapeutic Support

Self referral available [here](#).

DFFH Flexible Funding - Funding Additional Needs

Further information available [here](#).

Subscribe to Facebook, LinkedIn or Youtube by clicking these links



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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