



# COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

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**AGM**  
Wed 8/11/23

**SHARE &  
CONNECT**  
Wed 29/11/23

**Flexi-Funding**

**Better Futures**

**Helpine**

**CAP**

ADDITIONAL COSTS OF CARE

INDEPENDENCE, EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT

REFERRALS, ADVOCACY

CARER ASSISTANCE



## Peer support - face to face for intercountry adoptive parents of adult children

**Dates:** Wednesday 25th Oct  
Wednesday 22nd Nov

**Time:** 7:30 pm-9:00 pm

**Where:** Bargoonga Nganjin, North Fitzroy Library, 182 St Georges Rd North Fitzroy

PCA Families is delighted to announce that with a small grant through ICAFSS (Intercountry Adoptee & Family Support Services), a monthly face-to-face peer support group for parents of adult intercountry adoptees is being established, commencing on Wednesday evening, 25th October at North Fitzroy Library.

The need for intercountry adoptive parents to access opportunities for mutual sharing of the joys and challenges of their adoptive parenting journey has long been recognised as profound benefit for sustaining strong, ongoing relationships with adult adopted children.

It is anticipated that the group's discussion topics will emerge from the needs identified by participants and will be guided by knowledge gained from evidence-based research and professional experts, as well as by the rich, shared wisdom of participants' lived experiences.

Central to this peer support group will be the establishment of a safe, non-judgmental space for sharing experiences and a deep sense of trust and respect for participants, together with a good deal of hope and humour.

To express an interest or to gain more details please email [linda2cooke@gmail.com](mailto:linda2cooke@gmail.com) No booking required; you can just attend.

# Recruiting - Senior Worker

## Better Futures and Homestretch Senior Worker, Part-time, .6FTE

Come and join a team of highly skilled, motivate and compassionate professionals.



PCA Families has an exciting vacancy to lead our Better Futures and Homestretch program. The Better Futures and Homestretch program aims to engage with Young People leaving care, providing individualised supports including housing, health and wellbeing, education, employment, and community and cultural connections.

The Senior Worker will be instrumental to leading the small team and engaging with of the Young People and their Carers to confirm their eligibility and gaining the Young Person's consent to be referred to a Better Futures and Homestretch service provider.

### The position requires:

- Experience working with Young People, Carers and Families.
- Understanding of the barriers and challenges facing Young People and Carers in Permanent Care and trauma informed approaches.
- Knowledge of Child Protection, Out of Home Care, Child, and Family Services sectors.
- Experience in leading a small team.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills and a positive and enthusiastic manner.

Lived Experience of the Out of Home Care sector would be viewed favourably.

### Benefits of working at PCA Families:

- SCHADS Award level 5.1 plus 10% higher duties allowance and superannuation.
- 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.

### For more information:

If you would like to know more about this role, please contact Wendy Mason, CEO on 0499 617 106.

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

# PCA Families member survey

Permanent Care and Adoptive Families is undertaking a review of its membership and is seeking your feedback.

To assist us in this process we would be grateful if you could take 10 minutes to complete, the anonymous survey below. The information gathered from the survey will assist PCA Families to determine its future membership model and what a viable membership offering would look like. The collated results from the survey will be shared with you via our communications and at the PCA Families' Annual General Meeting.

The survey will remain open until the 30th of September 2023.  
A special thanks to those who have already participated; we really appreciate your input.

To participate, please click [here](#) we really appreciate your input.



## Q&A- Helpline

PCA Families is running Q&A helpline information sessions to provide an opportunity to ask any questions or queries you have regarding our Helpline program.



All questions are welcome.

Time: **10.30 - 11.30am on Thursday 5 October**

Register: **via [zoom](#)**



## Events - Share and Connect



**TOPIC:** Join Jenn Colechin discuss Understanding and Responding to Challenging Behaviour

**DATE:** Wednesday 29 November from 7.30pm - 9.00pm (online)

**REGISTER:** via [Zoom](#)



This presentation provides an understanding of challenging behaviour including:

- Knowing the common reasons will provide why challenging behaviour occurs and how to avoid triggers for escalation and
- Practical strategies in how to positively de-escalate and successfully respond to challenging behaviour.

# 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](mailto:chair@pcafmailies.org.au) or [chris@pcafamilies.org.au](mailto: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](#)

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## Have you seen the Last Daughter?

It is the moving story of the journey of Brenda Matthews "to discover the truth about her past, to unite her two families—and to foster a broader connection between black and white Australia.

It's a story full of heartbreak, love and hope, one that shows a way forward for all Australians."

<https://www.brendamatthews.com.au/>



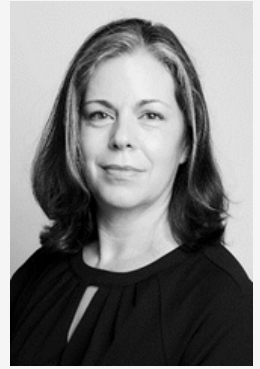
# PCA Families Annual General Meeting

**Date:** Wednesday 8 November 2023

**Time:** 4.00-6.00pm

**Venue:** Rendezvous Hotel, President's Room, 328 Flinders Street, Melbourne

**Register:** <https://www.trybooking.com/CLEWV> and select if you prefer to attend in person or online. For those attending online a link will be sent to you closer to the event.



**Guest Speaker: Stacy Blythe;** Associate Professor in the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Western Sydney University and Deputy Director of Translational Research and Social Innovation group.

Stacey's research focuses on the health and well-being of children in out-of-home care. As a lecturer in Infant Mental Health, she is particularly interested in infants who are prenatally exposed to harmful substances (eg. illicit drugs). In addition to her nursing, teaching and research qualifications, Stacy has post graduate certification in Developmental Trauma.

Stacy has also been a carer for 18+ years. Drawing on her skills as a nurse, knowledge as a researcher and experience as a carer, Stacy provides training to health care workers, social service providers, educators and carers in relation to working with children who have prenatal substance exposure and/or have experienced trauma. You can attend via webinar or face to face.

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## News from the Guardian - A form of discrimination - school systems fails neurodiverse children

When Ashleigh is asked if she felt supported during her time in the education system, her answer is simple: "God no." The university student received her autism diagnosis before preschool and says she doubts she would have completed high school without the constant backing of her family.

"It was never the greatest environment for me," says Keating, who moved between the public and private systems across Coffs Harbour, Canberra and Sydney.

"When my family would approach certain schools, they would approve my enrolment but once the talk of a diagnosis came into the picture, they would use interesting language – like 'we don't think we'd have the resources or the funding'."

Her subsequent diagnoses of dyslexia and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder were not picked up until her late primary school years, due to, she says, her school thinking "she has autism, it's that".

"I was not supported at all," she says. "My mum was the biggest advocate for me. Without her, I wouldn't have coped."

Last month, Children and Young People with Disability Australia (CYDA) released three national surveys that found school systems at each level were failing to adequately support students with additional learning needs. Read more [here](#)

# Life & Living Skills

Free 7 Week Group Program for Young People who have links to [Bayside Peninsula](#) area

For young people aged 16-25

**When:** Every Monday starting 2 October 4.00 - 6.00pm

**Where:** Kingston Youth Services - 81 Albert Street, Mordialloc

**Contact:** Mario D'Souza, Youth Worker, 0403 113 316 [mdsouza@moira.org.au](mailto:mdsouza@moira.org.au) or visit [www.moira.org.au](http://www.moira.org.au)

Obtain essential skills for independent living in a fun, no-pressure space.

 Money Management	 Housing & Legal Rights	 Daily Living Skills
 Employment, Education & Training	 Health & Wellbeing	 Personal Development & Social Connection

## 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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