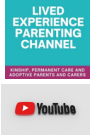




COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

WWW.PCAFAMILIES.ORG.AU



Flexi-Funding

ADDITIONAL COSTS OF CARE

Better Futures

INDEPENDENCE, EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT

Helpine

REFERRALS, ADVOCACY

CAP

CARER ASSISTANCE



Happy New Year from the PCAF Team



PCAF staff at their 2023 Annual General Meeting

As we welcome in 2024, I want to take a moment to express PCAF's gratitude for the unwavering support and care that you provide to the children and young people who cannot live with their birth families. Your commitment to providing a safe, stable, and loving home is truly inspiring.

I am honored to be a part of this exceptional community and to witness the incredible work that you do every day. Your dedication, resilience, and the love that you share are truly remarkable.

As we move forward into the new year, on behalf of the PCAF team, I wish you all continued happiness and fulfillment in your journey as a permanent care, kinship care or adoptive family. May this year be all that you want it to be, and your children continue to thrive and enjoy life.

We look forward to partnering with you throughout the year to ensure that your voices continue to be heard by those who make decisions on behalf of children.

Save the date

National Kinship, Permanent and Foster Care conference

We will be providing more details as information is confirmed; however please note the National Conference will be held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, 1 Convention Centre Pl, South Wharf on:

Friday 9th August, Saturday 10th August and Sunday 11th August 2024



Join the Advisory Committee for National Carer Strategy



Would you like to help deliver a national agenda to support Australia's unpaid carers?

The National Carer Strategy, led by the Department of Social Services, will provide a framework for the coordination of carer policy across Commonwealth portfolios. It will be developed in consultation with carers across Australia and the department is calling for expressions of interest to join the National Carer Strategy Advisory Committee.

If you have experience caring for someone and are interested in joining the Advisory Committee, you can find more information on the Expression Of Interest process and how to apply by visiting the strategy [website](#).

Applications close on Monday 29 January 2024. Please apply [here](#)

If you have any questions regarding the strategy or the EOI process, please contact the National Carer Strategy secretariat at nationalcarerstrategy@dss.gov.au

Peer support for intercountry adoptive parents of adult children

Parents of adult adopted children are warmly invited to the third of our monthly, face to face, peer support groups being held at Fitzroy North Library.

Topics will be based on the needs identified by participants over the last two months and will be guided by the rich, shared wisdom of participants' experience within the group.

The forum is a safe, non-judgemental space for sharing experiences and a deep sense of trust and respect for participants, together with a good deal of hope and humour.

Where: Bargoonga Nganjin Community Hub - Bagung Magali

Address: Fitzroy library, 182-186 St Georges Rd, Fitzroy North

Dates: Wednesdays in 2024, 28 Feb, 27 Mar, 22 May, 26 Jun. April to be decided.

Time: 7:30 to 9.00pm

For more information please email Linda Cooke linda2cooke@gmail.com

ADHD conference in Geelong

10 free tickets to give away to carers



PCAF is sponsoring a table at the ADHD Conference in Geelong. The first 10 Carers, who are members of PCAF to email: deborah@pcafamilies.org.au will receive a free ticket.

Further information on the Conference can be found at: <https://www.chaostocalmconsultancy.com/adhd-conferencegeelong>

Join Chrissie Davies - Child Behaviour Specialist - in this life changing conference experience focusing on understanding and supporting the ADHD community.

This is a conference created by an ADHDer with specific key learning elements - takes one to know one right?

The ADHD brain is uniquely wired and often misunderstood. Not only does Chrissie have over 25 years of professional knowledge of supporting neurodivergent children and families - she loves two amazing little ADHD'ers with all of her heart.

Navigating her own children's identification, led her to the incredible unfurling of her own amazing ADHD brain. It is such an inspiring story. (You'll hear more about that if you come along.)

It also alarmingly, highlighted to Chrissie the amount of work we have to do in our education system and wider communities to support kids and families living with ADHD. There is still so much stigma, shame and damaging information floating around ... and this really needs to change.

So, Chrissie set to work. In true ADHD style.

This drove her to write her highly acclaimed second children's book "Love me love my ADHD" and NOW.....using her strengths, passions, hyperfocus, determination and DOPAMINE fueled creative talents.... this conference is her next gift to the world.

Chrissie and her amazing colleagues, will be sharing their 'lived experiences' and professional insights into the ways they;

- draw on the current research,
- neurodiversity affirming beliefs,
- trauma informed practices,
- holistic behaviour supports,
- accommodate,
- advocate and SO much more.

Victorian Carer Card Program

DFFH is updating the eligibility information on the Victorian Carer Card website to include permanent carers. The links below provide access to the application form.

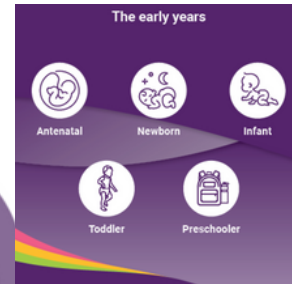
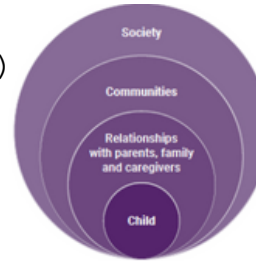
[Eligibility | Carer Card Program Victoria](#)

[Home | Carer Card Program Victoria](#)

Early Years Strategy 2024-2034 (DRAFT)



The Australian Government has developed a draft Early Years Strategy 2024-2034 (Strategy) to shape its vision for the future of Australia's children and their families.



Recognising how critical the early years are for children's development and later outcomes in life, the Strategy seeks to support improved coordination between Commonwealth programs, funding and frameworks impacting early childhood development.

You can provide **feedback** on the draft Strategy by completing this [survey](#) by the 9th February 2024.

An electronic copy of the Draft Strategy can be found at: [Early Years Strategy | engage.dss.gov.au](#)

Disclaimer
We strive to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information contained in these communications. PCA Families does not accept liability for any loss or damages suffered through reliance on or use of information contained in this publication.

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](#).

Subscribe to Facebook, LinkedIn or Youtube by clicking these links



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