



# COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

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## QUICK LINKS

Journal Club -  
Topic 4/11/21

Click & Connect -  
Respite 20/10/21



## Youtube Video - Kinship Care with Bobbi Cook (Part 1)



Bobbi Cook is a behaviour therapist with 30+ years experience and a very devoted kinship carer to her 13yo grandson. Bobbi understands the demands of caring and wants others to avoid her mistakes. She suggests:

- don't be anti-labels, the labels are a coathanger, a way for others to understand what your child needs
- try medication and look at how it affects their play, not their school work
- take an advocate with you to meetings as others behave differently then
- when working with schools, disclose everything and seek the Education Departments input and NDIS too
- use rules like when/then (helps with demand avoidance)
- don't ask questions/give instructions
- avoid compensatory parenting or if you do compensate, name the process and feelings to
- take breaks and make sure you arrange respite, its not a failure.

To listen to the recording access it [here](#)

**"Delivering trauma-informed services that empower"**

## News - Vaccinations for Young People

Guidance on mandatory vaccinations for workers outside the home is available [here](#) and guidance for vaccinations for young people in out of home care is available [here](#). At this stage there are no requirement for mandatory vaccinations from the Victorian Government, just a recommendation to get vaccinated.



## AGM Reminder - AGM & Board Election

### Notice of AGM

The Annual General Meeting of PCA Families will be held via webinar:

**Date:** Wednesday 27 October 2021

**Time:** 4.00-6:00pm

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

**The meeting will feature guest speakers Liana Buchanan, Commissioner for Children and Young People, who will launch PCA Families' research report "Permanence and Stability – the missing ingredients for Victoria's most vulnerable children".**

### Proxy Voting

If you cannot attend the AGM via webinar, you may still vote on appointments to the PCA Families Board by providing your proxy to a PCA Families member who is attending or to the Chair. The biographies of the nominees are included on the proxy form which is available [here](#). Proxies must be received by **Monday 25 October at 4pm** either via email to [info@pcafamilies.org.au](mailto:info@pcafamilies.org.au) or by post to PCA Families, P O Box 201, Fitzroy 3065.

For more information about the PCA Families Constitution see [here](#) and for more information on the AGM please visit [here](#).

## Journal Club

### Topic: Save the Date

Please join us at 8pm on **Thursday November 4** by [registering here](#).

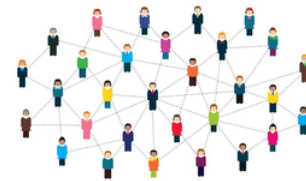


**"Improving the lived experience of young people"**

19 OCTOBER 2021

## Click and Connect - School and Kinder Readiness

Topic: School and Kinder Readiness



Please join us at midday on **Wednesday 20 October** by [registering here](#)

An effective start to kinder or school, or any other life transition, involves the appropriate sharing of information about your child and the appropriate skill set in the child, plus a few other tips thrown in the mix. You may be surprised to learn that the important things are not whether your child is ready for their ABC's. Please join us in discussing school readiness.

Each Wednesday fortnight various parents and carers come together on Zoom to learn from each other and share their challenges and lived experience in our Click and Connect meetings. We share the joys and the struggles and find new ways to tackle situations by sharing together. We welcome any new parents or carers that would like to join us for one or more meetings.



## News - Better Futures and Home Stretch

PCA Families began processing eligible persons for Better Futures and Home Stretch this week. We have dedicated staff working on the program. There is now an option on our regular phone number for Better Futures and Home Stretch - Option 3 - and an email [homestretch@pcfamilies.org.au](mailto:homestretch@pcfamilies.org.au)

Young people who turned 18 years from 1 October 2021 will be the first group progressed by PCA Families. As this is a new program, we are continuing to develop processes and ask for people's patience. For those who turned 18 years prior to 1 October 2021, please contact the Better Futures and Home Stretch providers as advised in letters from DFFH. For more information, please see the PCA families website [here](#).

## Flexi-Funds

A reminder that PCA Families has Flexible Funding available to meet the extraordinary needs of children and young people subject to a Permanent Care Order, or where you are receiving DFFH care allowance and have a Family Court Order or Special Needs Adoption Order.

Flexi funds can be used for therapeutic, educational and medical services, to build skills, interests or attachment, to elevate family contact and cultural identity, to offer respite, home medication or other services like whitegoods, one off clothing, estate planning or vehicle needs eg car seats.

[For details about what the funds can be used for - see here](#)

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