



COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

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News - Research Report



PCA Families commissioned a review of the current state of permanent care and adoption in Victoria to understand:

- Why children in out-of-home care are not moving to stable, permanent arrangements in a timely manner when they are unable to be re-unified with birth parents;
- The consequences for children the longer they remain in the out-of-home care;
- The support children in permanency arrangements need in order to recover from the accumulated harm, identity, and developmental issues; and
- What children and permanent care families require to create and sustain a stable environment that improves life opportunities and outcomes.

The key findings from the report were:

- Stability is key for children to recover from the significant disruption in their lives.
- Victorian permanency legislation has not gained the traction that was expected.
- Inequity and systemic barriers to permanency require urgent attention.
- Aboriginal self-determination must drive all decisions and solutions for Aboriginal children.
- Only with sustained support will outcomes change.

The Permanence and Stability report is available on the PCA Families website [here](#)

News - A Wonderful Story



Did you read the story about one of our carer's who suffered a humiliating car breakdown with all four children and the family cats on board?

Its definitely a great read and its a true story too! Here is a snippet.

Earlier this year, I suffered a most humiliating car breakdown. The children (all four of them, ages ranging from nine down to eight months) and I (an adventurous Senior Citizen/single Mum to my nephews and baby niece), plus my two cats took a trip up to the bush for an off grid pioneering cabin experience. Prior to the trip, I sensibly had my car serviced, checked the oil and water, and felt confident the car was in great condition. The cabin was at the very top of a remote area on the cusp of the Great Dividing Range, so we had a good ten minutes worth of unmade road to navigate. My car of choice was an imported Nissan El Grand and was my second car of this type.

At one point during the weekend, I did a bit of accidental bush bashing....

To read the rest of this story, head to page 12 [here](#).

News - Quarantine at Home

The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing has released some tools to help prepare for quarantine should you find someone in your household becomes COVID positive. See their resources [here](#).

News - Seeking Permanent Carers

Seeking Permanent Carers to join the Eastern Carer Advisory Group to improve the lines of communication between carers, community service organisations and the Department Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH). The Group contributes to the future design of the children and families services system in Victoria. The Joint Inner and Outer Eastern CAG comprises the following Local Government Areas (LGAs) and are seeking permanent carers who live in these areas: Yarra Ranges, Maroondah, Stonnington, Yarra, Knox, Whitehorse, Boroondara, Monash and Manningham. For further information or to download an Expression of Interest Form please see the PCA Families website [here](#). **Expression of Interest is due by 14 November 2021.**

"Improving the lived experience of young people"



Journal Club - Last JC topic for 2021

Topic: To be Announced

Please join us at 8pm on **Thursday December 2** by [registering here](#)

Click and Connect - Care Orders, Passports and the Childs Voice



Please join us at midday on **Wednesday 17 November** by [registering here](#)

When and what can change in care orders over time and what can you impact? How do passports work? How do you manage birth family contact and share photos and other information? Knowing what is a requirement and what is "best practice" can help in making important decisions surrounding your child. So please join us to discuss this important topic.

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 too!

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](#)

PCA Families cannot guarantee we are able to fund every application and request received.

PCA Families access to COVID-19 funding support will cease at the end of 2021.

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