



COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

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QUICK LINKS

**Journal Club -
Last 2021 Topic**
27/12/21

**Click & Connect -
Santa & Clowns -
Fear or Fun**
1/12/21



News - State Budget Submission

PCA Families recommends several initiatives that are required in the 2022-23 State Budget, in order to build on the initiatives from 2020-21 and to improve the understanding both within the sector and government of the situation for permanent care and adoptive families. Initiatives like care services being assessed based on children's needs, not the type of legal order they are on, or an identified peer support and training framework, that best equips carers to meet the changing needs of their children over the long term. To find out more, read the submission [here](#).

News - School Holidays

Are you looking for fun things to do for the children during the school holidays? Activities where they may build skills and receive great support? Some of these camp activities might appeal.

Billabong Ranch Echuca - Horse riding and adventures 10+
OutBeyond - Skiing to rafting 11+
Quest Skills for Life - Grampians to Apollo Bay - 10+
Camp Kiah - Therapeutic - 7+
Edmund Rice Camps - 1:1 Ratio - Personal Growth - 8+
CYC Camps - Outdoor challenges - 7+
Wombat Corner Emerald - Outdoor challenges - 5+
Green Super Camp Beaufort - Life Skills Challenge - 10+
Making a Difference Portsea - Special Needs - 9+

"Delivering trauma-informed services that empower"

News - Celebration for Secondary School Students

Create is celebrating secondary school students who have completed a year of school this year on **Thursday December 16** with a special dinner and speaker. Time to celebrate students success! All attendees will receive a certificate of congratulations and **dinner is provided too**. If you would like to attend please **register** by sending an email to deborah.watson@create.org.au



Journal Club - Equine and Animal Assisted Therapies



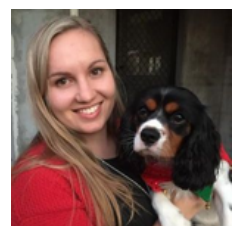
Please join us at 8pm on **Thursday December 2** by **registering [here](#)**. **Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) is a type of therapy that involves animals as a form of treatment and has been shown to have a number of positive benefits. The goal of AAT is to improve a person's social and emotional functioning.**

Join psychologists Leanne Winter and Shelby Bengtsson from Mullum Road Clinic who specialise in animal therapies to talk about the benefits and power of animal therapy.

Leanne grew up in a family with members on the spectrum and then had a child who was on the spectrum. This inspired her to enter psychology to find ways to assist other families with similar experiences. Leanne's passion has always been animals and the idea of involving animals in therapy, particularly horses and dogs, was a concept she entertained for many years. She is now fortunate to be able to combine two of her passions, ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorders) and AAT (Animal Assisted Therapy).



Shelby is a psychologist with experience working with children, adolescents, and adults with a range of mental health problems. Shelby is competent in the assessment and diagnosis of a range of mental health disorders and has worked with individuals and groups using Cognitive Behaviour Therapy, Exposure Therapy, **Dialectical Behaviour Therapy, and Mindfulness.**



"Improving the lived experience of young people"

Click and Connect - Carer Authorisation

Back in 2018 the CEO (or equivalent) of an Out of Home Care service was given the ability to authorise accredited and prospective permanent carers to make decisions about specified issues for children in their care. Decisions like haircuts, routine medical or dental care and education related activities, school photographs and more. The process streamlines the authorisation process to prevent children missing out on day to day activities and normalises their experience in care. If you need to renew your authorisation or obtain one contact the intake team on 9735 6100

Click and Connect - Santa & Clowns, Fear or Fun



Please join us at midday on **Wednesday 1 December by registering [here](#)**

Genetics, anxious parenting and stressful events such as early childhood trauma can contribute to a fearful child. Most of us have a fear or two. But what do you do if that fear is Santaphobia, which is kind of hard to avoid in December, or Coulrophobia, a fear of clowns. Trauma can exacerbate the response to these fears. Find out what you can do and share your experience with like minded caregivers.

WHERE: Please register in advance via Zoom link above

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. All welcome!

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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