



COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

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QUICK LINKS

**Click & Connect -
End of Year
15/12/21**



Research - Educational Outcomes for Vulnerable Children

The Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare is working on a project to improve educational outcomes for children and young people in care. They are keen to hear from carers (permanent and kinship) about your child's engagement in education and what helps them stay connected to school.

They want to know:

- What has been helpful for keeping kids engaged in education?
- What are the challenges in keeping them engaged?
- What support (information, resources, other support) would help your children stay engaged in education?

The insights you provide will help them develop some useful resources to help carers support children in staying engaged in school.

They welcome feedback by any means – phone call, video chat, email or group discussions/forums.

Share your insights, or for more information, please contact Sarah Ryan.

sarah.ryan@cfecfw.asn.au or call Sarah direct on 03 9094 3548

"Delivering trauma-informed services that empower"

News - Flexi Funding Tips

We understand this is a stressful time for many and that we can help by processing your Flexible Funding Applications as quickly as possible.

To help with this aim, here are some tips:



1. We aim to process applications within 21 days. Currently we are experiencing a high number of applications. Please do not call us to check on the status of your application until after 28 days, as this takes away time from processing the applications.
2. We have limited funding. Your application must meet the guidelines we have agreed with the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, and we must be fair to all eligible applicants. You may not receive everything you ask for. What we can and cannot fund is on our website (eg we cannot fund items covered by other funding sources such as the DFFH care allowance). We also consider how much funding you have already received.
3. To avoid being asked to provide further information to help us assess your application, please provide supporting documentation with your application as to why the services (eg camps, counselling, animal therapy etc) are in the best interests of your child and how they are trauma informed services that provide the most benefit for your child. This might be a letter from a supporting professional, educator or the service provider.
4. Please prioritise the items you are seeking funding for. The more items on an application the longer it takes us to process.
5. We prioritise processing of applications for those who have not previously received funding and otherwise in the order they are received to be fair to all. If you believe there is an urgent need for funding then you must provide supporting documentation from a professional as to why this is the case.

Please make sure all your interactions with our staff are positive and respectful.

News - Scholarships for PC & KC

Children in Permanent Care or Kinship Care are eligible to apply for Foster Dreamz programs and scholarships. Activity Partners for scholarships include Roller Derby, Swimming, Gymnastics and Auskick in various locations from Preston and Footscray to Box Hill and many more locations. To find out more see [here](#)



Click and Connect - End of Year

Please join us at midday on **Wednesday 15 December by registering [here](#)**

Its time to decide on new topics for next year and to look at how we go forward with our Click and Connect groups. We will also have some fun games and activities. BYO drink and snack!

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!

Journal Club - 2022 Speakers

Journal Club has finished for 2021. We are looking for suggestions for guest speakers or topics for 2022. Please email Deb at info@pcafamilies.org.au with any thoughts, ideas or suggestions! We have invited Gianna Mazzone to conduct a follow up session regarding contact with birth families on 3 February 2022, so stay tuned for more information.



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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