

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

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9/2/22](#)

[Journal Club -
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Youtube Recording - Layne Beachley, Adoptee and World Champion Surfer



I was six years old when my dad returned from the hospital.

His deep blue eyes were red and swollen, and a profound sadness enveloped his whole being. "Your mother is gone, she is never coming back". My brother and I were devastated and heartbroken. Mum died from a cerebral haemorrhage during a cosmetic surgery procedure. The following year, dad informed me of my adoption, shattering my sense of belonging and igniting a flame within me. I was desperate to prove I was deserving of love. How can I do that? I had to become a world champion. A world champion surfer. The best of the best.

Layne Beachley is one of the most successful surfers, male or female in history.

With 7 world titles and 29 tour victories, Layne has been extremely successful despite an experience of a traumatic childhood as an adoptee who lost her (adoptive) mum at 6 years old and learnt she was adopted at 8 years old. Layne was driven by adoption fear until she reassessed and let go of the story of rejection and judgement and decided to chose connection. She wants adopted children to understand they were chosen and accepted into a heart relationship, not rejected, and she wants caregivers to step back from other's judgements and use empathy to explore where others have reactions to your children. Layne is testament to how working on ones intrinsic value creates great success and silences the fears. Layne now owns the thought "I am enough". She is truly enough!!

Enjoy this gift from Layne to all the wonderful caregivers that we are truly privileged to have here at PCA Families. Listen [here](#)

News - CEO Message

2021 has been another very challenging year for us all. It is such a relief that we can now see families reuniting and some sense of normality returning. I am particularly looking forward to visiting my Queensland family.

Despite Covid-19 throwing some major issues our way, it has been a year where the importance of permanent carers and adoptive parents in providing stability and support for your children and young people has been recognised. The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing has:

- increased the ongoing Flexible Funding Program to \$3 million
- provided Covid-19 specific additional flexible funding
- expanded the eligibility for Better Futures and Homestretch programs to young people who have been on permanent care orders
- expanded access to Carer Kafe training to permanent carers
- extended funding for PCA Families helpline until 30 June 2024
- provided PCA Families with additional Covid funding to employ more helpline advisors.

One of the highlights for PCA Families has been our first carer retreats for adoptive parents and permanent carers. The overwhelming feedback was the importance of being able to talk to someone who knew exactly what you were going through.

One benefit from Covid-19 has been the ability to virtually connect, and our Click and Connect and Journal Club zoom meetings have helped many in the regions with more opportunities to share their concerns and stories.

I hope you have been enjoying our new podcast series - Sonia Wagner's chats to those who provide caring insights, tips, tricks and stories are designed to make your journey as parents and carers easier. Don't forget to follow us on LinkedIn, Twitter & Facebook.

Our recently issued **Research Report** "Permanence and Stability: The missing ingredients for Victoria's most vulnerable children" will support our continued advocacy on your behalf to ensure the needs of your children and young people are put first, and support is not dependent on the type of statutory order that applies.

A very big thank you to our small but dedicated team, who have done an amazing job in very difficult circumstances to continue providing our helpline services and distribute DFFH's flexible funds. It has been very exciting (and challenging!) to begin helping administer the Better Futures and Homestretch programs.

So 2022 is looking promising. If you have any feedback on what you want to happen please contact me using ceo@pcafamilies.org.au. I wish you and your families a happy and safe holiday season and look forward to working with you in 2022.

Kris Peach, Interim CEO



PCA Families Staff Members Christmas Poem

On the first day of Christmas (Sonia)

My family gave to me
A spa in the middle of the trees yippee

On the second day of Christmas (Kris)

I want families together, enjoying themselves
No more border restrictions
And time to cherish together as a family

On the third day of Christmas (Zahra)

It's a time of wonder and joy
A time to celebrate with loved ones
Coming together
And having a party

On the fourth day of Christmas (Andrea)

I want to see the Bahamas
A typical tropical island
With many palm trees
Swaying and relaxing
Enjoying the breeze

On the fifth day of Christmas (Ray)

My true love sent to me:
Petunias colourful and blooming
Two grandchildren and their parents to spend
some days together and don't forget their dog
A sandy beach for fun
Spontaneous and cheeky laughter over meals
and snacks
And a friendly magpie family in a hard to sway
tea-tree

On the sixth day of Christmas (Eden)

My true love sent to me
Lots of music and dancing
All my friends together
Enjoying the fun party
Clear blue skies,
Long beach days
And swimming in the sea

On the seventh day of Christmas (Merle)

I want to enjoy an outdoor bath, drink in hand
An outdoor lunch with family and friends
Special time with my grandson, playing in the
garden and splashing in the water
Time to read a book and grow my produce
Time to watch the sun rise and set
And big wishes for a peaceful, healthy new year

On the eighth day of Christmas (Sonalee)

My true love sent to me
8 endless days of sunshine
7 different kinds of dessert
6 long walks in nature
5 wonderful homemade gifts for family/friends
4 different homemade cookies
3 shopping days
2 fabulous spa days and endless days spent
with family and friends sipping tea.

On the ninth day of Christmas (Deb)

My true love sent to me:
A day at the sea, filling me with glee
Sitting under a shaded tree
After hours of a shopping spree
Champagne flowing free, buzzing like a bee
With loving family
This is me, don't you all agree

On the tenth day of Christmas (Anita)

My true love gave to me
10 hours of motorsport on the TV
9 caroller's carolling
8 loads of dishes, 7 hours of shopping
6 broken presents, 5 go-kart springs
4 hungry cats, 3 seconds notice with
2 chamomile teas, before telling me the Bengal
(cat) has chased the dog up the Christmas tree

On the eleventh day of Christmas (Liz)

Free travel to London, family reunited
Trauma informed schooling
Happy and contended children
Self filling wine glass
Hot tropical holidays
Healthy tasty cheese
Long morning beach walks
Beautiful summer sunsets
World access to Health care
And a happy and healthy holiday for all

On the twelfth day of Christmas (Trish)

My true love gave to me
12 days in New Zealand
11 days sleeping
10 members of my family
9 Paua patties
8 days out fishing
7 NZ mince pies
6 days at the beach
5 new Netflix series
4 lobster tail
3 nights in a 5-star hotel
2 kgs of fresh cherries
and a leg of ham

**We wish you and
yours the very best
summer holiday
break and look
forward to 2022!
(closed 25/12-4/1)**



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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