



COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

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QUICK LINKS

**Journal Club -
7/4/22**

**Click & Connect -
23/3/22**



News - Forced Adoption Redress Scheme

Victorian women who had their children taken under historic forced adoption practices will receive redress, counselling and formal apologies from the Victorian Government.

The funding will support crisis counselling as well as the option of an Integrated Birth Certificate (IBC), which includes the names of both the adopted person's natural parents and their adoptive parents. This importance of an IBC was a matter raised in our research report on permanence and stability in 2021. See page 48 of the report [here](#). So this is good news indeed!

More than \$4 Million in funding will go towards redress, including a \$500,000 hardship fund established to provide discretionary payments to mothers affected by forced adoption with exceptional circumstances (eg terminal illness). A further \$200,000 in funding will assist community groups to support applicants.

Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews acknowledges the grief and trauma which affects thousands of Victorians and adoptees. A step towards recognising harm and providing support!

Find out more about the redress scheme [here](#).



"Improving the lived experience of young people"

News - Voices In Action

CREATE Foundation are offering the Voices in Action Online Conference between 26 and 29 April 2022. The program offers collaboration between key decision makers and those with lived experience of care. It also provides an opportunity to mix with like minded individuals and to learn more about post care, housing, education and relationship based care. To register you can access a grant application at CREATE or apply for Flexi Funding at PCA Families. Find out more [here](#).



News - You are Invited!

Would you like some help understanding our Flexi Funding process or Membership? If so, please join us on Monday 21 or Friday 25 March at 10am on Zoom and we will answer your questions live and walk you through how to master the PCA Families website! Perhaps consider accessing the Zoom link from your mobile phone and having your Ipad or Computer in front of you so that you might easily navigate to the areas that you need help with. Register for Monday [here](#) or register for Friday [here](#).



News - Mental Health Plan

Mental Health Care has become a priority in response to the pandemic. You can now access up to 20 Medicare rebated sessions a year with a psychologist. However, that access relies on accessing a GP Mental Health Plan. Please consider setting up a Mental Health Plan for you or your child with your GP so there is no delay in accessing support and flexible funding when you or your child need it most. Read about some of the issues that hamper access to psychological support [here](#).



News - Carer KaFE Survey

PCA Families members have access to Carer KaFE training, learning and support programs. See [here](#). Carer KaFE are presently reviewing their programs and want to get your feedback to ensure they best meet your needs. Whether you have attended in the past or may attend in the future, Carer KaFE wants to learn from you. The Carer KaFE survey is anonymous. Access the survey [here](#).



News - Grants and Other Supports

There are a wide variety of grants available that might support you and your family. Here are a few that we would like to share with you.

Centre for Multicultural Youth has vacancies for young people looking for work and offers support in other capacities too. Find out more [here](#).

Create your future grant scheme is available for members 15-25yo for Driving Lessons, IT or learning and education. Apply before Friday 9th May. Find out more [here](#).

Dylan Alcott Foundation grant scheme is available to support young people with a disability who face barriers in meeting their dreams. Find out more [here](#).

Skilling Australia Foundation offer 17-24yo financial support for apprenticeships or traineeships when there is financial hardship or from a minority group. Find out more [here](#).

Country Education Foundation of Australia Local Grants Program offer 16-25yo support for education and employment expenses (non cash reimbursements). Find out more [here](#).

Australian Disability and Indigenous Peoples Education Fund offer up to \$2,500 for anyone living with a disability to help with education. Find out more [here](#).

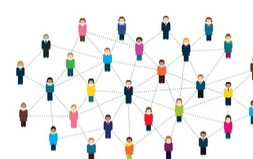
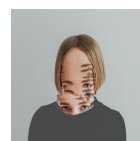
The **Arthur Marsden Whiting Sympathy Fund** offer up to \$3,000 for disabled people needing support for equipment, treatment, education or training. Find out more [here](#).

Variety Children's Charity provide funding for wheelchairs, specialist equipment and supplies for 0-17yo who have sought funding from government sources initially. More information [here](#).

Higher Education Scholarships for young people in regional or remote locations are also available [here](#). VET Scholarships are available [here](#).

If you know of other relevant grants, please let us know. Email sonia@pcafamilies.org.au

Click & Connect (Peer Support) - Identity, culture and history



Please join us at midday on **Wednesday 23 March** by [registering here](#)

In this meeting we will review and discuss the documentary "Found", available on Netflix and other mediums. This documentary follows the story of three adopted American teenage girls in their journey to discover if they are blood-related cousins. Their online meeting inspires the young women to embark on a once-in-a-lifetime journey to China together in search of answers, connections and their lost history. Lets discuss topics like connection (peers/culture), knowing ones story and therapeutic life story work.

HOMEWORK: Please view the movie Found available on Netflix or other mediums.

PURPOSE: Each Wednesday fortnight parents and carers come together on Zoom to learn from each other and share challenges and lived experience in our Click & Connect meetings. We share the joys and the struggles and find new ways to tackle situations.

Share & Connect - Peer support for parents & carers (previously Journal Club)



Topic: DFFH insights into the Better Futures & Home Stretch Program



DATE: Thursday April 7 at 8.00pm

TOPIC: Better Futures and Home Stretch presented by Vanessa Rendina, Principal Practice Leader Better Futures & Home Stretch, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH). Hear from someone who has experience with what the program is all about! Debunk misconceptions and find out how the program can support your child.

DETAILS: Better Futures and Home Stretch supports young people financially to make the transition from care to adulthood until they reach the age of 21. The program enables young people to have a voice and provides support across a range of areas including housing, health & wellbeing, education, employment and community & cultural connections. For more information, [click here](#) We hope you can join us.

REGISTER: [here](#) via [zoom](#).



Name Change for Journal Club

We have changed the name of Journal Club to "**Share & Connect - Peer support for parents and carers**". We hope this name better represents the sharing of (trauma informed/advantaged thinking) tips, advice and other gems of information among parents and carers.

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 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.

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