



COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

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Permanent
Care and
Adoptive
Families



QUICK LINKS

Share & Connect
7/7/22

Click & Connect -
1/6/22

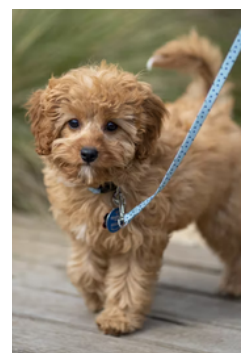
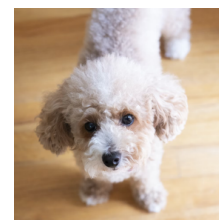
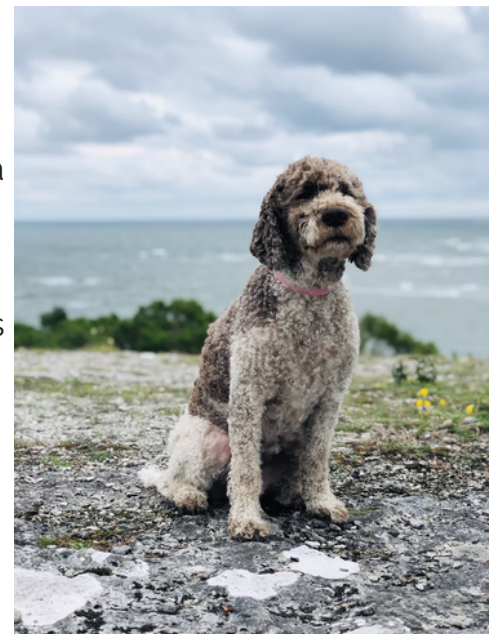
Lets Connect
6/6/22



Youtube - Dog Assistance Therapy. It's not easy but is rewarding!

Vicki Skelley is a permanent carer who was looking to find a way to look forward to brighten her granddaughters future after a bleak FASD diagnosis (among others). Her granddaughter wanted a best friend and Vicki wanted to find a way to make an invisible array of disabilities visible to others. The solution came in the form of Zara, a beautiful Italian Lagotto Romagnolo, a type of non shedding poodle, trained as an assistance dog by DogsforLife. Vicki learned that you don't just turn up and receive a fully trained assistance dog. It involves weekly training with her granddaughter and a variety of dogs learning rules, such as toileting off the property to picking up after the dog. All of this was her granddaughters responsibility, not Vicki's. An extra challenge when one has a SPD diagnosis too! Did they succeed? Did they get funding assistance or NDIS support? Listen in or read the transcript to find out more [here](#).

Note, one of our carers may be able to assist you in purchasing a cavoodle or toy poodle if this is your preferred pathway for dog companionship. She has 30 years experience breeding. Contact PCA Families and we can refer you on.



News - Carer KaFE Richard Rose Conference

Carer KaFE is offering 100 delegate tickets to the TLSWi virtual conference for permanent carers and kinship carers registered in Victoria. Eligible parents and carers will go into a random ballot drawn Wednesday 9th June. The conference is being held over 3 days from Wednesday 29 June to Friday 1 July online. TLSW can:

- Help children & young people learn to reflect in a constructive way
- Enable them to develop compassion for themselves

Offer them tips for 'moving on' with their life with a positive outlook.

The Conference Program is rich in content and suitable to all levels of familiarity with the Therapeutic Life Story Work intervention. The Conference will highlight promising local and international practice, share current research, will present new techniques in assisting children and adults to recover from their traumatic pasts and share the lived experience of young people and their carers.

Across the 3-days you will see a mix of keynotes, parallel presentations, hearing from young people with lived experience, research updates, local/international applications, creative tools and strategies as well as a panel discussion with practitioners from across the globe.

Find out more [here](#) or register [here](#).



News - Mysterious Teenage Brain

Do you ever feel like your teen/pre-teen is from a completely different species? Are you dealing with a teen who offers you nothing but grunts, shrugs, rolled eyes or silence or do you feel like you're constantly in a battle with your teen or that they are drawing away from you and the family? Do you struggle with how to support your teen with their worries, stress and anxiety? Join Relationships Australia as they unpack the big developmental changes that occur in the teenage brain in their online webinar on Thursday 16 June at 7.15pm.

Find out more [here](#) or register [here](#).



"Delivering trauma informed services that empower"

News - Secondary Education Open Days

Hester Hornbrook Academy, an alternative secondary education provider, integrating wellbeing and life skills, are having their community open day on Thursday 16 June (Melbourne), 23 June (Sunshine) or 23 July (Pahran). Find out more [here](#).

Bendigo TAFE are also hosting a series of open days in June. Charleston Road (animal studies, horticulture, carpentry, engineering, plumbing) on Thursday 9 June, Bendigo City (justice, individual support, hairdressing, beauty, hospitality and baking) on Thursday 9 June and Echuca Campus (engineering, hospitality, carpentry and beauty services) on Friday 10 June. Contact samantha.izzard@education.vic.gov.au for more information.

JOIN US AT THE CITY CAMPUS

OPEN DAY

LEVEL 8, 601 BOURKE STREET MELBOURNE
THURSDAY 16 JUNE 3-7PM



See what our supportive, flexible, independent secondary school has to offer!

- Free food and coffee cart
- Staff and students will be available to answer any questions and to have a chat.
- Check out the impressive purpose-designed learning spaces.
- And more!



To learn more: 1800 517 218
enrolments@hhacademy.vic.edu.au
mcm.org.au/learning

THE
HESTER HORNBOOK
ACADEMY



Click & Connect (Peer Support)



TOPIC: MOVEMENT THERAPY

DATE: Wednesday 1 June at midday

TOPIC: In this meeting we will review and discuss the Youtube Recording by Yvette Knights on Movement Therapy to assist trauma and developmental delays. Yvette explains how sometimes nothing seems to work to help our children because their brains haven't yet been primed for development. This may be because the brain is stuck in fight flight freeze or because milestones have been missed. Yvette offers neuro development therapy, a physical therapy, as a way to help rewire the brain and meet missed milestones (helping with emotions, speech, language, motor development, organisation, problem solving, learning and balance). An option for those with ADHD, Autism and similar experiences. Please join us for this discussion.

REGISTER: [here](#) via Zoom Link

HOMEWORK: Listen to the Youtube recording by Yvette Knights titled " Lets get physical with neuro therapy & fix trauma & developmental delays. Why sitting & karate help!" Available [here](#).

"Improving the lived experience of young people"

Lets Connect (Peer Support) Share & Connect (JC, moved from June 2)



TOPIC: Belonging & Identity with Joel De Carteret - adoptee, filmmaker & more!

DATE: Monday June 6 at 7.00pm

LOCATION: Level 4, 247-251 Flinders Lane, Melbourne

TOPIC: Joel is an adult adoptee born in the Philippines whose remarkable journey proves the power of love can overcome impossible odds. There's an extraordinary ending to this story, but it begins with heartbreak. As a five year old Joel got hopelessly lost from his mother when he wandered away from the family home and into a bustling city market in the Philippines. He searched and searched but couldn't find her, and eventually was taken to an orphanage. Imagine his despair as for the next 18 months this little boy contemplated a future with little hope. But Joel is plucky and also lucky. He's adopted by a caring and loving Australian family. He goes on to lead a happy and successful life here, except something is always missing. Six months ago, 30 years after getting lost, Joel de Carteret couldn't ignore the pain any longer. He had to find his birth mother. But in a country of one hundred million, where would he even start to look.

DETAILS: Connect with other parents and carers in a safe space and share the unique and common parenting experiences of permanent care, kinship care and adoption.

REGISTER: [here](https://www.trybooking.com/BZOULD) via trybooking / <https://www.trybooking.com/BZOULD>. RSVP by 1 June

News - Flexi-Funding Budget



As at 31 May 2022 we have limited flexible funds available until 1 July, so please prioritise any applications to 30 June 2022 to those that are essential (eg. counselling, therapies, tutoring and urgent medical) . Flexible Funding is ongoing, so approved applications that may not be paid from the 2021/22 budget, will be deferred for payment to 2022/23.

Flexi-Funds

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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