



COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

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QUICK LINKS

**Click & Connect -
Wed 5/10/22**

**Share & Connect
Thu 6/10/22**

**Lets Connect Fri
14/10/22**



News - Hello from the CEO

Hi Everyone,

I am now in my first week as the CEO of PCA Families. I want to thank everyone I have met so far for the warm and friendly welcome. I am "soaking up" lots of information" and am aware that I have so much to learn from you all. Over the coming months I am hoping to get the opportunity to gather your thoughts and feedback on the future directions of PCA Families as we move forward into our new strategic planning phase.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Kris Peach, Interim CEO for leading the inspiring work that has occurred throughout the year and the ongoing support of the PCA Families team. Thank-you also to Naomi Colville, Chair PCA Families and the Board Directors for providing me with this chance to be a part of PCA Families journey. I look forward to our exiting future together.

Kind regards,

Wendy

News - COVID-19 Update

Change to COVID-19 isolation period: From 9 September, isolation periods for COVID-19 positive cases will reduce from 7 to 5 days following a positive test (must have no symptoms on Day 5). Anyone leaving isolation after 5 days cannot visit or work at a sensitive setting (hospitals, residential aged care, disability care settings or in-home care) for the next 2 days, or if they have COVID-19 symptoms. People who work in sensitive settings can leave self-isolation after 5 days, but must not work in sensitive settings for the next 2 days. See [here](#).

Ventilation Advice: The Department of Health has published updated information on its website about the importance of ventilation in reducing the spread of COVID-19. See [here](#).

News - Flexible Funding Update

Update on Flexible Funding applications for year ending 30 June 2023

What a difference a year makes! As a result of increased demand relating to service needs and delays from COVID, at the start of September 2022 we have already spent 31% of our 2022/23 budget. It has been well spent on catch up counselling sessions, gap payments for operations to enable young people to be free of pain, lap tops and other essential educational supports to keep young people in school.

The funding available is still significant. However, to ensure we continue to provide fair and equitable services to those most needing the funding we ask that you prioritise your applications to those services most essential to supporting your family and that large applications relate to medical, therapeutic or educational support services to keep your young people in school.

Please use all other sources of funding before making an application (ie Medicare's 10 free mental health plan sessions) and request only "mandatory" education expenses.

Flexible Funding Spend Year End 30 June 2023



Our Advisors will work with you to make sure that the services requested provide maximum benefit to your family by addressing underlying behavioural or financial issues. We also consider whether significant prior funding has been received. Funding of services in prior years does not guarantee future funding.

We will keep you informed on the level of funding available as we progress through the year and thank you for your understanding.

News - Jobs Guarantee

The Jobs Guarantee is an employment program for Diploma of Community Services graduates, providing guaranteed 12 month positions with wrap around supports (resume writing, workplace adjustments, learning and development, sourcing roles and liaising with employers).



Workforce supply is not keeping up with demand and entry level workers face distinct challenges leading to attrition. The Jobs Guarantee should build and strengthen career pathways and provide support to employers too. Victorian resident students are eligible if they complete their Diploma between 1/9/22 and 31/8/24 and they successfully complete employer screening (National Police Check and Working With Children Check).

Find out more about the Jobs Victoria program [here](#).

News - Heard about Mockingbird Families?

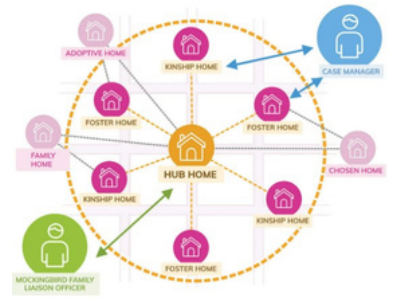
The MOCKINGBIRD FAMILY™ unites 6 to 10 kinship or foster carer homes (called Satellite Families) in a local community called a Constellation, supported by an experienced carer who takes on the role of Hub Home Provider.

The Constellation is like the extended family and the Hub Home is like a grandparent's house that is familiar and comfortable.

Each child in the Constellation is welcomed by the Hub Home Provider for sleep overs and social events, or if there is difficulty at home and the child and/or carers could benefit from a break. MOCKINGBIRD FAMILY™ also promotes ongoing relationships with parents, brothers and sisters and other family members. This community and peer connection helps everyone. Carers work together to support children and young people to achieve their goals. This supportive community provides children with a more positive experience of care. Children thrive and placements are more secure. Evaluations overseas show promising results: in decreasing placement disruptions and improving the satisfaction and retention of carers.

Maybe this is something we could investigate for our families? What do you think?

Find out more [here](#).



Events - Click & Connect

TOPIC: DEVELOPMENTAL TRAUMA

DATE: Wednesday 5 October at midday with hosts Liz & Sonia

TOPIC: In this meeting we will review and discuss the Youtube Recording by Liz Powell on Developmental Trauma. Children experiencing developmental trauma can often be labelled as over controlling, naughty, a problem child or even autistic or diagnosed with ADHD. Yet these responses can hold the child back from progressing. Understanding their behaviour from a trauma informed perspective can help. Developmental trauma can repair within relationships with the right interventions at the right time over a long period of time. Liz shares some tips and ideas on how you can repair developmental trauma for your children. Lets discuss how we might apply this learning in our everyday. Please join us for this discussion.

HOMEWORK: Please consider listening to or reading the transcript from the Youtube Recording by Liz Powell titled "What do kangaroos have to do with developmental trauma and control, shame, hoarding and overeating?" Access the recordings and transcripts [here](#).

REGISTER: [here](#) via Zoom Link



"Improving the lived experience of young people"

Events - Share & Connect (Journal Club)



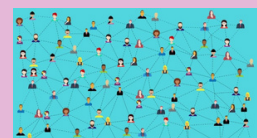
TOPIC: BODY KINDNESS: OVER 1M AUSTRALIANS HAVE AN EATING DISORDER AND LESS THAN 25% RECEIVE SUPPORT

DATE: Thursday 6 October at 8.00pm

TOPIC: Body Kind Families is an initiative of the Butterfly Foundation designed to help families access and share information around body image and eating disorders. Access their website [here](#). People who suffer from an eating disorder may display symptoms or they may not show any signs or symptoms at all. They may also make significant efforts to conceal their behaviour or they may not even recognise that there is anything wrong or that their eating habits are 'disordered'. For a parent or carer, this can make the warning signs difficult to identify. What can you do to help?

REGISTER: [here](#) via Zoom Link

Events - Let's Connect - Pakenham



LOCATION: Pakenham

DATE: Friday 14th October 11am - 2pm with hosts Liz and Ray

TOPIC: At our Let's Connect events its all about getting together to connect with others with lived experience face to face to share tips and advice and/or seek out some specialist advice from one of our PCA Families Advisors and the group. A PCA Families Advisor will be available for members to meet with individually and will run the group session. We will be open and flexible to discuss whatever you wish on the day or you can contact us ahead of time to let us know what you would like to know more about. Meeting requirements will be advised closer to the event.

Please register your interest in attending via trybooking [here](#).

DFFH Flexible Funding

If your child or young person is on a Permanent Care Order or you receive the DFFH Care Allowance and they have a Family Court Order or Adoption Order, they are entitled to DFFH Flexible Funding to meet the costs of goods and services they need not covered by the care allowance, or another funding source (eg Medicare, NDIS). Flexible funds can be used for therapeutic, educational or medical services, build skills interest or attachments, support birth family contact and cultural identity, respite, medication, vehicle modifications. For more details on what the funds can be used for see [here](#). Claims should be more than \$100 per invoice and generally paid by PCA Families directly to the supplier. To ensure funds are distributed fairly and equitably and are appropriate and safe for your child, we ask for supporting documentation that services are trauma informed and that both goods and services are recommended by a professional who knows your child or young person. Apply early as the need for supporting documentation can mean it takes 21 days to finalise your application.

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