



COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

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Wed 19/10/22

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Thu 10/11/22



News - Floods

The Victorian community is once again facing impacts on vulnerable families in our permanent care, kinship care and adoption community from the recent floods, particularly in regional and rural areas. With many of our families only just coping with the day-to-day realities of parenting children who experience life-long effects of trauma and attachment, the need for services to support our families in affected communities is real.

The Victorian Government is offering lump sum disaster relief [here](#)

If you are flood affected, please contact our helpline to see if we can help in some way beyond the disaster lump sum payment.

Lifeline is also available to those in emotional distress [here](#).

Victorian State Emergency Services (SES) have practical advice on sandbag collection points or local flood guides or tips on being flood proof. See [here](#).



News - Success for Children

A new intensive early childhood education trial model is being rolled out across Victoria for vulnerable and disadvantaged children, with the first site in Richmond. This model is based on a research project undertaken at Melbourne University. Children participating experienced extraordinary improvements in cognitive skills, resilience and socio-economic development.

An additional three trial sites will be launched over the next 12 months. Find out more [here](#).

News - COVID-19 Health Information

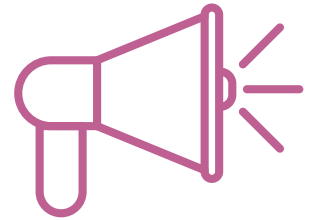
Updated Department of Health information on the COVID-19 Pandemic is available [here](#). All children over 5 years and some children from 6 months are eligible for vaccination. Meanwhile only 66% of the most vulnerable group, those over 65yo, have had the recommended doses.

News - Disability

There are many organisations that can assist with disability needs.

Here are two we are aware of:

- The Disability Resource Centre: A a membership driven advocacy organisation that assists adults 18yo+ with disability advocacy, assisting them to know their rights and access services.
- The Association for Disability Needs: A not for profit organisation led by and for families of children with disability offering support, resources and workshops. Offering help to develop strategies to address issues children may be facing.



News - ADHD Guidelines

New evidence based ADHD guidelines have been published by the Australian ADHD Professionals Association with 32 recommendations to support the 1M Australians with ADHD. Guidelines like screen the whole family as ADHD tends to run in families or focussing on stimulant medications as the first line response. Doctors/General Practitioners will be supported by 215 pages of guidelines on diagnosis, clinic interviews, rating scales and more. Fun fact: ADHD costs just over \$25,000 per person annually so those guidelines are important!

"Improving the lived experience of young people"

Events - Share & Connect (Journal Club)



TOPIC: NDIS DIAGNOSABLE DISABILITIES: COMMUNICATING DISABILITY RELATED NEEDS AS DISTINGUISHED FROM PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

DATE: Thursday 10 November at 8.00pm

(Note, this meeting is a different timing to the usual first Thursday of the month)

TOPIC: Bobbi Cook is a kinship carer and behaviour specialist who has lived the highs and lows of caring for those with a trauma history. She has shared many of her wisdoms with PCA Families in our Youtube recordings and we hope to hear more insights from her about how to succeed with obtaining NDIS support. Bobbi says

But I would say 80% of kids in permanent care yes would have a diagnosable disability that is NDIS eligible. If you present your case in a way that shows the disability to the NDIS you do actually qualify for that level of funding... talk about how you actually communicate effectively with the NDIS to actually show the gap between reasonable parental responsibility and disability related needs."

So bring your questions and lets learn from someone with lived experience.

REGISTER: [here](#) via Zoom Link



Events - Click & Connect



TOPIC: SUPPORTS: WHAT WORKS?

DATE: Wednesday 19 October 12:00 midday until 1:00pm with hosts Liz & Sonia

TOPIC: In this meeting we will review and discuss support and what it looks like for you. What do you think the best support you ever had was? What sort of support do you need? What else do you need support with? There are so many types of supports - employment, education, social, financial, respite, childcare, transport, cleaning, advice and more. But what really makes a difference to you and your family? With the collective wisdom in the room lets reflect and see what we can learn from each other!

HOMEWORK: Bring your own list of supports that have worked to share with the group and learn from each other.

REGISTER: [here](#) via Zoom Link

"Delivering trauma-informed services that empower"

Board - AGM

PCA Families Annual General Meeting will be held at 4.30pm on 2 November 2022. Join in person (President Room, Rendezous Hotel, 328 Flinders Street, Melbourne) or online. Register 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.

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