



# COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

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## QUICK LINKS

**Click & Connect**  
**Wed 16/11/22**

**Share & Connect**  
**Thu 10/11/22**



## Board - Update on the AGM

PCA Families Annual General Meeting was held last week and we were fortunate to have Renee Carter from Adopt Change open our meeting and share the many synergys that exist across our two organisations.

New Board members were elected including Kellie Burns, David Arndt and Patricia Vaz. We will tell you a little more about them next week and also include their biographies on our website [here](#).



Chair Naomi Colville (left)  
CEO Wendy Mason (right)

## News - Helpful Links

The Government have publicised their guide to Australian Government Payments including things like carer allowance and supplements, child disability assistance, centrelink, job seeker payments, home equity access, age pension, disability support pension and more. If you have a question about the variety of funding supports that may be available to you, this booklet is an easy access resource. Find the booklet [here](#) and the website link [here](#).

## News - Health and Wellbeing

Have you given some thought to what health milestones to look for as you progress through life? In the early years it is evident as we progress through kinder and schools and have quite a lot of external input where your welfare and the welfare of your children is important. But what about as you head into your 20s, 40s or 60s. What checks are relevant? Find out more [here](#).



### Parent Voice

And what can you do if you are concerned or wanting better outcomes for your children? Parents Voice is one avenue you may consider. Find out more [here](#).

## News - Mental Health Trauma Service

The Consortium that will run the new statewide mental health trauma service has been identified. This is great news that this service is progressing. The Consortium includes some familiar groups like Berry Street, Orygen and The Royal Melbourne Hospital. The lead organisation is Phoenix Health. The consortium will conduct trauma research, support the workforce to provide trauma informed care, create digital platforms and provide access to trauma experts. Find out more [here](#).

## News - Better Futures

The NSW Government has recently announced that young people in out of home care in NSW can now also access funding and other support until 21 years of age. The Your Choice Your Future program aligns to Victoria's Home Stretch and Better Futures program in offering funding and other supports until the age of 21. Find out more [here](#).

## News - Infants and Care

Adopt change recently researched the needs of carers and identified that infants under 4 years of age represent the highest proportion of admissions into out of home care, yet training to support care for infants or support from a community nurse or midwife is not the norm. Find out more [here](#) or listen to our Youtube recording with Dr Stacey Blythe [here](#) on this and other needs for young children in care.



## 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 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 let's learn from someone with lived experience.

**REGISTER:** [here](#) via Zoom



## News - Join our Focus Groups



We are running focus groups to assist us in our strategic planning process, discussing matters related to suggestions received in the latest member survey (improving flexi funding processes, adding additional services or strengthening the lived experience voice). The focus groups will commence on 28 November and will run throughout the week, finishing on 2 December, with the times based on member availability. Each group will run for an hour. If you would like to express an interest in participating, please register [here](#). PCA Families will confirm your attendance and the group details around 14 November. We thank you for your time and energy in assisting us with our strategic planning process.

## Events - Click & Connect



**TOPIC: ONLINE TECHNOLOGY: A FORMAL PRESENTATION!**

**DATE: Wednesday 16 November 12:00 midday until 1:00pm with host Virginia & Sonia**

**TOPIC:** Modern technology is a part of everyday life, along with its opportunities and risks. For children and young people, the need for awareness and support as online users is critical. Whether that is regulating boundaries to avoid conflict for young people and their technology use or gaining an understanding of cyber safety and the extra vulnerabilities specifically relating to children from kinship, adoption or permanent care. What are the techniques that might work best for trauma impacted or neuro diverse children? When do you start or allow gaming - early or late?

**REGISTER:** [here](#) via Zoom Link

## 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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