

# COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

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## New Video - NAIDOC

### National Aborigines and Islander Day Observance Week



It's NAIDOC week from 4-11 July where celebrations are held across Australia to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The theme this year is Heal Country.

Country is more than a place. Country is family, kin, law, lore, ceremony, traditions, and language. Helping with healing is close to all our hearts!

Within the Aboriginal community we know the importance of kinship care as a means of identifying and preserving a child's name, identity, language and culture. We respect this right and work together towards healing.

So while you might want to consider celebrating in some way, whether by learning your own naming place or having a BBQ or lunch while you listen to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander music, we want to celebrate by sharing relevant videos! So please enjoy these:

**[Rumbulara Aboriginal Culture Support for Carers](#)**

**[Experience of Growing Up in Care - Merinda and Sophie Dryden](#)**

**[Importance of Closing the Gaps in Social Outcomes](#)**

**[Aboriginal Young People in Care](#)**

**[Importance of Kinship Carer Wellbeing](#)** - Podcast #2

## News - Survey

Did you receive a Journal Club survey in your email inbox recently?

If so please take the time to respond. It is an important opportunity to capture the value of this model of peer support as well as preferences if and when Covid restrictions lift.

Feedback on guest speakers, formats, locations, times, topics and other ideas for connection are being sought. All this information will help us with future planning and funding.

**If that's not enough incentive, we also have two \$50 Coles Myer Vouchers to be drawn so two lucky winners will be drawn randomly. Click [here](#) to access the two minute survey.**

We value your input on how we can continue to support you and your family.



**"Improving  
the lived  
experience  
of young  
people"**

## News - Home Stretch and Better Futures

The link to Home Stretch and Better Futures for permanent carers on our website is [here](#)

Children turning 18 between July to September 2021 will be the first group progressed.

At this stage we are asking that you wait for information to be made available before getting in touch with PCA Families, DFFH or Better Futures providers.

Referrals to Home Stretch will be gradually progressed when we have the appropriate processes in place and information available. No eligible young people will miss out on support. We thank everyone for their patience.

## News - External Resources on Website

We are continuing to add resources to our Support and Services on our website. The new tab "External Resources" is updated weekly so remember to check it out. Click [here](#).



## Click and Connect - Sensory Challenges

Each Wednesday fortnight various parents and carers come together on Zoom to learn from each other and share their challenges and lived experience in our Click and Connect meetings. We share the joys and the struggles and find new ways to tackle situations by sharing together. We welcome any new parents or carers that would like to join us for one or more meetings.

**Please join us at midday on Wednesday 14 July to discuss sensory challenges.**

**To register please click [here](#) or see our website for links here.**

Some children may be anxious in unpredictable environments, get tired in busy environments or avoid tasks that involve the senses. So when do you investigate further, who can help and what strategies and sensory resources should you engage with to assist your children.

One in six children experience sensory processing challenges so its commonly experienced! For those of you working or who have children at home, you are welcome to join on mute with video off - we welcome participation in any format and the chat function is always available when you are muted and busy!

## Journal Club - Next Meeting

**Topic: Relationships Australia Intercountry Adoption Counselling Services**

**Please join us at 8pm on Thursday 5 August by registering [here](#)**



Relationships Australia in South Australia (RASA) have been running Post Adoption Support Services (PASS) since 2006, and are now managing the nationwide service. Over this period, PASS has provided support to both local and intercountry adoptees, adoptive parents and families, and birth parents and families, as well as providing training to allied health professionals about adoption. Relationships Australia also runs Forced Adoption Support Services and supports those growing up in out of home care. There are many common themes! Nikki Hartman, Program Manager of Post Adoption Programs and Program Manager Time for Kids has been working in the service since 2006 and joins us as guest speaker.

## 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 Special Needs 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](#)

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