

# COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

WWW.PCAFAMILIES.ORG.AU



## New Youtube Video - Video Podcast 9

### Same Sex Parenting - from respite care to permanent care with gratitude and connection.



David and Michael are a same sex couple who formed their family after a long term respite care (foster care) relationship developed into a permanent care placement.

Their two children, two brothers, were 2 and 3.5 years old when they would come for respite care from Friday night to Sunday night every second weekend.

Those two children became a permanent part of David and Michael's lives and are now young adults.

We have a wealth of information to learn from David and Michael about gratitude, how a strong emotional connection can lead to great things and how to navigate care in the LBGQTI and broader community with keeping expectations high.

Fortunately we have a podcast to listen to what David and Michael have shared with us.

Please click [here](#) to access the podcast or see all our podcasts on our [website](#) here.



## News - External Resources on Website

This week we have added a new tab to our Support and Services resources on our website. The new tab is titled "External Resources" and includes a variety of books, podcasts, articles and more that we have found useful for our families. Each item is tagged (see the orange tags) so that you might find them if you do a general search on our website. To access the new website page please click [here](#). Please let us know if you are aware of any other resources that we should add to this tab by emailing a link to [sonia@pcafamilies.org.au](mailto:sonia@pcafamilies.org.au)

## News - Home Stretch and Better Futures

Last week we added a new tab to our website for Better Futures and Home Stretch updates for permanent carers. The link to our website is [here](#)

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

At this stage we are asking people to 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 - Retreats

We hope our adoptive families enjoyed the weekend retreat last weekend. We hope to have an equally fabulous retreat for permanent carers on 24-25 July. Registrations are now closed and we will be in contact to advise further details.

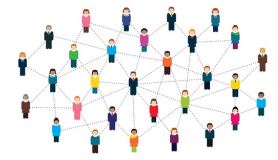


## News - Get Active

Last week we mentioned that the State Government is offering pensioners and health care card holders access to reimbursements for sport and recreation activities for 4 to 18 year olds. We should have also mentioned that all permanent carers and adoptive parents are also eligible by emailing [getactivekids@sport.vic.gov.au](mailto:getactivekids@sport.vic.gov.au) to advise you are in receipt of DFFH allowance (provide child's name and order number / details). Once they confirm your eligibility you will receive an application form to complete. See Get Active Kids Program Information:

<https://www.getactive.vic.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Get-Active-Kids-Voucher-Program-Guidelines-February-2021.pdf>

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



## Click and Connect - Future Meetings

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. A general topic guides our discussion, although sometimes we do digress!

Future click and connect meetings scheduled for Term 3 include:

14 July - Sensory Challenges - how to assist children with sensory sensitivities

28 July - NDIS - shared experiences and tips

11 August - Life Story - how much to share and with who?

25 August - Therapists - how often do you see a therapist and which one for which situation?

Full details about all our Click and Connect topics and meeting schedules are available on our website [here](#). Please visit our website to access the meeting links and register.

## Journal Club - Next Meeting

**Topic: Strictness and Freedom**

Do you ever wonder if your rules are too strict—or too lenient?

When is it time to reel your child back in, and how will you know when it's safe to loosen the reins a bit?

Is your child ready for more freedom and independence? Or are they showing clear signs that they're not?

As your child grows, you need to offer them the opportunity for age-appropriate independence.

After all, how will your child learn to be independent on their own if they're never given a chance to try new things?

To read more please visit this article [link](#).

Please register for our next Journal Club meeting on Zoom, **Thursday 1 July 8.00-9.30pm here:**

**[Registration to Journal Club July 1](#)**



## 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](#)

Subscribe to Facebook or Youtube  
by clicking these links below



Permanent Care and Adoptive Families, PO BOX 201, FITZROY VIC 3065  
[info@pcafamilies.org.au](mailto:info@pcafamilies.org.au) [www.pcafamilies.org.au](http://www.pcafamilies.org.au) 03 9020 1833

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.