

April 1, 2016



BIG DAY OUT Sunday 15th May 2016, 10am-2pm

<http://www.kidsparadise.net.au/>

Put it in your Diary and register by phone 1800 149 994 or email ceo@fcatas.org.au and come to the Foster and Kinship Carers Big Day Out



Fun

Laughter

CREATE A GREAT MEMORY FOR YOUR KIDS

There will be lots of activities for the children and new play equipment downstairs.

Free Food, Coffee and the great company of other foster carers around the state.

1 Waterfront Drive, Riverside, Launceston,



April 1, 2016

A message from the CEO

2016 seems to be moving along very quickly.... A big hello to everyone.

I have been busy at FKAT and just want to highlight a few key points for your attention. Dr Julian Watchorn and I have been working really hard on the Survey results. Julian has been working with the de-identified data and collated this information into a Report that will be Tabled with the Minister, the Honourable Jacqui Petrusma and her advisors next Friday 8th April. I would like to say massive thank you to all the 160 carers that completed the Survey. Well done! For those carers that never had an opportunity to complete the Survey we are still happy to receive them as it provides ongoing valuable data to report on to other Stakeholders. The Raffle Prize Winner for completing a Survey went to a Foster Carer at Glengarry. I do hope she loved her gifts.

The Big DAY out is booked in at TAILRACE in Launceston on 15 May 2016, from 10.00am to 2pm. We have exclusive use of the Venue. Please register your interest with me for Catering Purposes. We hope to see as many Carers and children as possible there. FKAT sponsors the whole event. So it is free entry and catering. It is a great day out for all who attend.

The Redesign of Child Protection Services Report has been completed and available online if you're interested in reviewing this on www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/children/cpsredesign. The next phase is The Implementation of the Recommendations. FKAT provided formal feedback in relation to this Redesign on behalf of all the carers in the State. The information was gathered from questions in our Survey.

The Commissioner for Children in Tasmania has two reports: Strengthening Child Safe Organisations and the Annual Report 2014-2015 which are also online. I currently sit on the Commissioner for Children Adult Advisory Group to raise issues in relation to foster and kinship carers.

The OOHC reform is still progressing well and there will be formal communication around this in May by the Department.

I hope to see you all soon at the Big Day Out.

Cheers

--

Dr. Kim Backhouse

CEO

FKAT

ceo@fcatas.org.au

1800 149 994

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Understanding and Managing the Neurodevelopment Trauma Affecting Children in Out of Home Care.

It is pleasing to report that Dr Anagha Jayakar, a senior Paediatrician from the Royal Hobart Hospital will provide educational training and support to the foster carers starting with 6 sessions once a month in 2016 in Hobart. (FKAT is keen to also run this program also in the North and North West this year but we will pilot this in Hobart first).

The sessions are planned for a Tuesday and the time will be 12.30 - 2pm so as to allow carers to do school pickups.

The first session would be an information session on Lessons learnt from the HEARTS project (45 mins) and followed by planning the next 6 educational sessions after identifying the training needs of the foster carers who attend. These sessions could be in any venue in Hobart with a facility for videoconferencing if you want to include foster carers across the state.

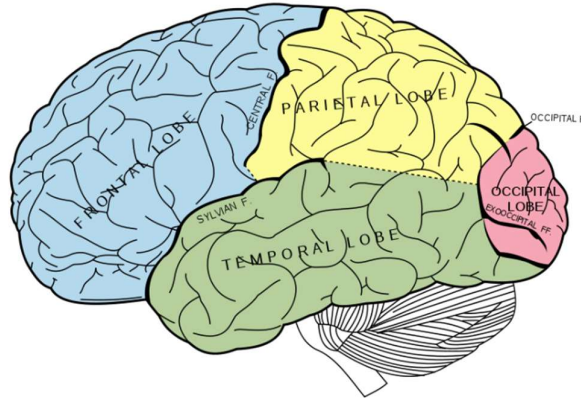
The dates I can confirm with you are 3rd May ,14th June ,5th July, 2nd August ,18th October and 22nd November.

Time 12.30 to 2pm. Venue to be advised - depending on the number of carers who register. **Please email Kim at ceo@fcatas.org.au to register your attendance.**

The 1st session is open to all carers and then only interested foster carers would register for the next 6 sessions – these sessions would be targeted specifically to Understanding and managing the neurodevelopment trauma affecting children in out of home care.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ATTEND TRAINING ABOUT NEUROSCIENCE OF TRAUMA?

The Australian Childhood Foundation will offer training in Neuroscience of Trauma in Tasmania, if there is enough interest. If you or your colleagues would be interested in attending training, later in the year, please let Kim know as soon as possible so we can organise times and venues. Phone 1800 149994 or email ceo@fcatas.org.au



Foster and Kinship Carers Association of Tasmania Newsletter

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The CEO has indicated that there will be a little bit of funding for any Carer wishing to attend the NT conference in June. FKAT appreciates that this is an important conference to attend and is expensive.

The amount yet is to be determined depending on the amount of carers that express an interest in some contribution towards the cost of the conference. To express an interest please forward an email to ceo@fcatas.org.au

All you need to do is send an email asking Kim to be considered for a contribution to assist you with the registration of the conference. The Board will meet on 15 May and consider the request and the amount that will be granted. Please email Kim by 13 May.

North West Morning Tea

Dear Carers you are invited to join us for morning tea on the 4th May 2016 10am-12noon
We have invited Claire Williams case manager from Child Protection Service to share a case manager's perspective. Montgomery meeting room Woolworths car park Ulverstone. We will also be drawing a mother's day raffle.

First prize: single bed quilt Second prize: Mothers pamper pack \$1.00 per ticket or 3 for \$2.00 if you would like to buy tickets call Pam or Stephen

Hope to see you there, please bring a plate and gold coin donation. All funds raised will go towards the North West Children's Christmas Party.

Stephen and Pam Dalrymple 64 252201 Maggie 0400876907

Southern Connection Event

Carers in the northern suburbs have organised a worker from Centrelink to come and talk about entitlements carers can receive and what to do if you are finding it difficult to access Centrelink services. All carers are welcomed to attend.

Where: Bucaan Community Centre, 8 Bucaan St, Chigwell

Date: 27th April

Time: 10am-12pm

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Tasmanian Foster Carers and Education

Can you help?

Anglicare's Social Action and Research Centre is doing research about the experiences of foster carers in supporting the education of the children and young people that they care for. The Research Centre does research and lobbies Government on issues which affect people experiencing disadvantage in Tasmania.

Teresa Hinton from the Research Centre is conducting the research. She is talking to foster carers to find out about their experiences in supporting education and how these experiences could be improved. She is interested in finding out about times when supporting education has worked well and times when it has not worked so well.

You have the knowledge and experience which is very important in thinking about how foster carers can support the education of children and young people in out-of-home care. If you are a foster carer who has been caring for a child or young person for at least 12 months we would like to invite you to take part in the research. This will mean attending a focus group for approximately two hours to discuss these issues. You will be reimbursed for your time and any other costs you have in helping with the research. Focus groups will be held in:

- Hobart – 28th April
- Ulverstone – 2nd May
- Devonport – 3rd May
- Launceston – 4th and 5th May

The information collected will be confidential. Your identity will be protected and it will not be possible to work out who said what. It will be used to write a report about foster carers' experiences and views about education and to make recommendations to the Government about how to support carers to support education.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact Teresa Hinton on 6213 3565 or t.hinton@anglicare-tas.org.au

April 1, 2016



Research about Foster Care and Education Can you help us?

Foster carers have an important role to play in supporting the education of the children and young people they care for. Can you tell us about your experiences?

The Social Action and Research Centre (SARC) at Anglicare is doing research about how to assist foster carers to support the education of those in foster care in Tasmania. The research will:

- gather the views and experiences of foster carers in supporting children and young people in their educational journey;
- explore examples of good practice in building effective partnerships between carers, students, schools, caseworkers and other stakeholders which promote education; and
- make recommendations to the Tasmanian Government about how best to support carers to promote the education of those they care for.

The project is coordinated by Teresa Hinton, Senior Research and Policy Officer at SARC and supported by the Foster Care Association Tasmania. It is guided by a research reference group with representation from Children and Youth Services, Department of Education, Commissioner for Children, Kennerley Children's Homes, CREATE Foundation and the Foster Care Association. It will result in a report with recommendations during 2016.

The research will involve focus groups with foster carers across the state and a questionnaire survey for carers in May. Focus groups are organised for:

Hobart 10-12 on Thursday **28th April** at the Anglicare offices in Collins Street

Ulverstone 10-12 on Monday **2nd May** Glenhaven officers

Devonport 10-12 on Tuesday **3rd May** at Community and Health Service Centre, Steele Street

Launceston 10-12 on Wednesday **4th** and Thursday **5th May** at the Tailrace Centre, Waterfront Drive, Riverside

If you are a foster carer who has been caring for a child or young person for at least 12 months we would like to invite you to join a focus group. You will be reimbursed for any expenses you incur in taking part.

If you are interested in coming to a focus group or wish to find out more about the project, please contact Teresa at t.hinton@anglicare-tas.org.au or 6213 3565.

Social Action and Research Centre (SARC)

SARC was established by Anglicare in 1995. It undertakes research and engages in social action, policy development, advocacy and public debate in order to support Anglicare's mission to achieve social justice. SARC aims to provide the opportunity for people who are experiencing disadvantage to raise their concerns in the public sphere.

Foster and Kinship Carers Association of Tasmania Newsletter

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Board Members

We would like to thank and acknowledge the contribution of our outgoing Treasurer Serena Zammit and Public Officer Regina Chinnery for giving up their time to support FKAT and carers. We welcome the new treasurer Mark Maumill and public officer Mary Dickins to the board of FKAT.

President	John Flack	Vice President	Maggie Phillips
Treasurer	Mark Maumill	Secretary	Tammy King
Public Officer	Mary Dickins	Northern Board Member	Anita Jones
Southern Board Member	Trish McMillian	Southern Board Member	Julie Kerjza
Community Member	Carol Scholes-Robertson	Community Member	Roger Colbeck
Community Member	Carolyn Brown		

Know Someone Interested in becoming a Carer

	North	Nth West	South
Glenhaven Family Care	63 437 551	64 251 144	
Life Without Barriers	63 373 800	64 325 903	62 328 750
Kennerley	62 725 900		
Child and Youth Services	State-Wide	1800 732 522	
Key Assets	State-Wide	1800 WE CARE	1800932273

Websites You May Find Helpful

DHHS information for foster carers
www.fostercare.tas.gov.au
Australian Government Information
www.familyrelationships.gov.au/AboutYou/Carers
Tasmanian Children Commissioner
www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/
National Peak for foster and kinship carers
www.afkcp.org.au/
International foster care organisation
www.ifco.info/
Create Foundation supporting children in care
www.create.org.au/
Beyond Blue
<http://www.youthbeyondblue.com/>

Contact FKAT

You can contact FKAT anytime on
1800 149 994
This is our Foster and Kinship Care Advocacy
support line as well.

Kim Backhouse ceo@fcatas.org.au

Like our Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/fcatas

FCAT Website

www.fcatas.org.au

Please let us know if your details are wrong or changed address

Foster and Kinship Carers Association of Tasmania Newsletter

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Membership Form 2016/17

All membership will expire 30th June each year

(1) Name Mrs. Mr. Ms. _____
(2) Name Mrs. Mr. Ms _____
Address _____
_____ postcode _____
Email _____
Telephone _____ Mobile _____

1) Signature _____ (2) Signature _____

Registration forms must be signed by all members

Date/...../.....

Date/...../.....

Please tick appropriate box

South Telephone area code 62 North area code 63 North West area code 64

Foster Carer Kinship Carer Associate Member

Grandparent caring for grandchildren

Couple \$10.00 Single \$5.00

Are you a New Member Renewing Your Membership

Please make direct debit deposit and name in reference box:

ANZ BSB: 017539 Account No: 440174952

Please post registration form to: G.P.O. Box 241 Hobart 7001

ASOCIATE ORGANISATIONS

Name of Organisation: _____ Phone: _____

Name of Spokesperson: _____ Mobile: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Associate members have no entitlement to vote or serve on the committee, however can support and pass on knowledge and skills and work alongside committee members.

Membership Fee: \$60.00 Direct Deposit Bank: ANZ BSB: 017539 Account No 440174952 name of organization in reference box, please post registration form to P.O. Box 241 Hobart 7001