

caring matters

FKAT NEWSLETTER NO: 22

MARCH 2019

FROM THE PRESIDENT

STRONG FAMILIES,
SAFE KIDS

LEARNING INCENTIVE ALLOWANCE

SUPPORT AFTER
YEAR 12

NEWS & EVENTS

NATIONAL
CONFERENCE

FOSTER AND
KINSHIP CARERS
ASSOCIATION
TASMANIA



from the chair.

MAGGIE PHILLIPS

Hello to all our foster and kinship carers and welcome to FKAT's first newsletter for 2019. These first three months seem to be flying by, it only seems a couple of weeks ago we were sending the children off to school, and here we are approaching the middle of March with the end of first term of school and Easter on the horizon.

During February, carers were invited to attend a forum that was held around the state called "Strong Families Safe Kids". The Department of Communities has organised a multi-stakeholder process to re-imagine how government, community and NGOs work together to assist vulnerable children in Tasmania to reach their potential. It's about how families can get help earlier so they can provide a safe environment for children. It is an exciting opportunity to get the 'whole system' in the room.

There was recently a joint promotion with Children and Youth Services in the South of the state on Sunday February 10th at Village Cinemas in Hobart. It was a joint foster and kinship carer recruitment event with the Department, Key Assets, Kennerley, Fostering Hope, and FKAT. The film "Instant Family" was shown, and each organisation set up information tables to give people attending the opportunity to ask questions regards fostering.

The FKAT board recognises that some carers are not receiving information that is forwarded to all carers. The board is working hard to ensure all carers get relevant information. We acknowledge that there are carers who don't have computers or internet access, and we would like to hear from you. If you know any carers who do not have internet access, please ask them to call Kerrie Taylor (our admin assistant) at our Hobart office on 62120513. Kerrie is currently working on updating our member list, which has been no easy task. During the past year we have had an increase in membership so this will help to make sure you are on the mailing list and we have your correct address.

Last year, concerns were raised by carers regarding the after-hours emergency number and the lack of support when making contact with a duty officer. This concern was raised with the Minister's office. With upcoming changes to the after-hours emergency number, carers will receive a better response when calling the after-hours number.

The CEO will be engaging with the Department to clarify the policy regard restraining children during behavioural outbursts in the home. We hope to develop better training around the safety and risk factors to carers and children/ young people in foster homes.

FKAT Regional representatives are now meeting monthly by phone, and also having quarterly face-to-face meetings. If you have issues you want raised at these meetings please contact your regional reps and your issues will be added to the agenda.

The 'BIG DAY OUT' is to be held at YMCA Launceston this year, on May the 4th, The theme will be Star Wars. All are welcome and more information will be sent to carers over the next couple of months. Please ensure you register for this great event.

All carers are invited to attend the Carer Connect Meetings that are held around the state. If you are not sure when they are, please contact admin@fkate.org.au for details.

CEO

Dr Julian Watchorn

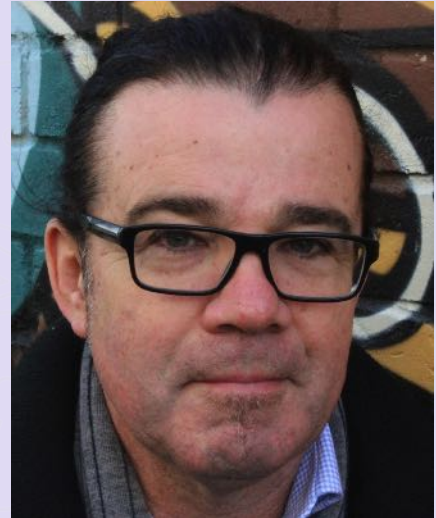
Foster

When I look up the the meaning of the word 'foster' its states 'to encourage the development of (something, especially something desirable). Synonyms for 'foster' include: encourage, promote, further, stimulate, advance, forward, cultivate, nurture, strengthen, enrich, help, aid, assist, contribute to, support, champion, speak for." These words help us understand the important role of foster and kinship carers. For a child or young person, entering the foster care system is often a frightening and stressful experience. Being taken away from the place they once felt safe and being surrounded by strangers in unfamiliar territory, is a difficult process. Foster carers provide a safe, loving environment for these vulnerable children and young persons. With their love and support, the children in their care learn to adapt and thrive.

What's Going On

We have run three FASD information workshops around the state earlier this year, and there are two FASD Master Classes coming up in Hobart and Launceston. We also held a combined event at Inflatable World with CREATE (February 23rd), with over 200 people attending.

There have been regional 'Strong Families, Safe Kids' discussion forums last month leading into a three day statewide 'Our Voice, Our Future' forum coming up in Hobart. This will be a unique opportunity for young people, parents, carers, community, government and service providers to come together and create new ideas about how we can work together to support children and young people in Tasmania. We will have a number of carers from around the state representing the voice of foster and kinship carers at this forum.



Our Family is Growing

I would like to welcome into the FKAT family, Kerrie Taylor who is our new admin assistant at our 'Hub' in Rokeby. The office will be open for any carers who wish to pop in between 9.00am until 3.00pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and 9.00am until 2.00pm Fridays. I would also like to welcome Mark Dawson on to the FKAT Board. Mark is one of our North/West representatives.

The Children's Commissioner

I have recently had a meeting with the Children's Commissioner, Leanne McLean. We discussed her Out of Home Care Monitoring Program and her wish to gather information directly from children and young people in out of home care to inform this process. We have included a flyer about this process so that you can discuss it with the children/young people you care for.

Member Profile

Anne Bailey

My name is Anne Bailey and I am a mother of 4 children a grandmother and step grandmother of 24 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren and another on the way.

I became a foster carer in Launceston in 1994, after my great aunt telling me about her experience's in caring for boys in a boy's home in Hobart.

I remember thinking I would love to do something like that.

Here I am 28 years on, I have been a cottage carer for Kennerly Cottages, a group home carer for Child Safety twice in Burnie, a foster carer in my home in Launceston and on the North West Coast. I also worked at Roseneath, also known as Launceston Girls Home. I was a kinship carer in Tasmania and Western Australia.



I have attended many foster carer National Conferences around Australia. I have cared for over 300 hundred children in that time and have enjoyed every minute of it.

I have attending training for foster carers over many years and feel that this has been a valuable resource for caring for children from various back grounds.

I have been a member and a board member of FKAT for many years

Learning Incentive Allowance 2019

A key Tasmanian Government election commitment was the allocation of \$1.2 million over three years to encourage and support young people living in Out of Home Care to continue with education and learning through a one-off payment of \$2500 to both the young person and carer.

The 2019 Learning Incentive Allowance provides the option of staged carer payments to assist with educational costs for the young person throughout the year.

Under this program the young person will receive a one-off payment of \$2500 upon completion of Year 12 or equivalent in 2019 or 2020.

The Application Form is available via the Resources tab on our webpage fkat.org.au. If you have further questions, contact: Adoptions and After Care Support

Email: aftercaresupport@communities.tas.gov.au

Phone: 6166 0422

National Conference

- The Foster Care Association of Western Australia invites you to participate in the 2019 National Foster and Kinship Care Conference to be held at the iconic sea-side suburb of Scarborough in Western Australia, at the Rendezvous Hotel, from the **5th to 7th September 2019**.
- Registrations will be open soon.
- Please visit **www.fcawa.com.au** for further information



Changes to the Constitution

HI ALL,

DUE TO SOME CONFUSION REGARDS THE LACK OF PROCESS IN THE CURRENT CONSTITUTION WHICH IS VERSION 18 ESTABLISHED DECEMBER 2013 WITH A SPECIAL RESOLUTION TAKING PLACE IN AUGUST 2015 TO CHANGE NAME OF ASSOCIATION WITH THE INCLUSIONS FOR THE INVITED COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE.

IT WAS DECIDED TO CALL FOR A SPECIAL RESOLUTION TO CLARIFY THE TERM OF OFFICE FOR INVITED COMMUNITY MEMBERS, ALSO TO REDUCE THE 3YEAR TERM OF OFFICE TOO 2YRS FOR ALL ORDINARY ELECTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. FKAT WOULD LIKE ALL FINANCIAL MEMBERS TO HAVE THEIR VOTE AT THE NEXT SPECIAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN MAY.

MAGGIE PHILLIPS, CHAIR

Board Members

President: Maggie Phillips
Vice President: Kim Backhouse
Treasurer: Carol Scholes-Robertson
Secretary: Trish McMillan

Public Officer: Anne Bailey
Northern Representative: Anita Jones
Northern Representative: vacant
North West Representative: Mark Dawson
North West Representative: Anne Bailey
Southern Representative: Trish McMillan
Southern Representative: Ros Deeks

Community Member: Mark Maumill
Community Member: Roger Colbeck

MEET THE EXECUTIVE

President / FAST Rep
Maggie Phillips

Hi I am Maggie I have been fostering since 1993, I have been a member of FKAT since 1998. I have been a FAST Representative since 2005 and continue in that role to support carers with their issues. I have served on the board as the chair since September 2015.



Secretary / Southern Regional Rep / FAST Rep
Trish McMillan

I'm currently the Secretary of FKAT and one of the southern representatives to the Board. You may recognise me from trainings, functions, meetings and of course helping out with child minding of the wonderful children we support as carers. The other important role I do is being one of the FAST representatives for not only the southern region but state, advocating on behalf of Carers and supporting them around care concerns and advice. These roles can be hard to juggle as a volunteer and we are all time poor. It can be challenging at times but always rewarding to support the Carers.



EVENTS CALENDAR

WHAT'S ON

Carer Connect Meetings

Southern Carers Connect meetings are planned for the 2nd and 4th Wednesday in the month at our Clarence Plains office from 10.00 to 11.30, commencing 27/3/19 then the 10/4/19, then Easter break starting back on the 8/5/19, and the 24/5/19.

North/West Carer Connect meetings are the third Wednesday of the Month, commencing Wednesday 20/3/19 at 10.30 to 12 noon. The Uniting Church Hall, Reiby St, Ulverstone.

Board Meeting

We have a Board Meeting scheduled for the 3rd of May from 7.00 until 9.00pm at Grindewald. Members are welcome to come and meeting the Board before or after the meeting.

'The Big Day Out'

On the following day we have the Big Day out which is being held at the Launceston YMCA.

Regional Representative Meetings

Face-to-face meeting at Campbelltown, April 13th at 11.00am.
Teleconference on the 25th June at 7.30pm.

Newsletter

Next newsletter due out in June.

FOSTER AND KINSHIP CARERS ASSOCIATION
PH: 62120513
TUESDAY - THURSDAY 9.00-3.00, FRIDAY 9.00 TO 2.00.

Ticket To Play

Ticket to Play is a Tasmanian Government initiative designed to reduce the cost of participating in club sporting activities for Tasmanian children. Ticket to Play will be launched on 8 February.

ABOUT TICKET TO PLAY


Tasmanian children aged 5 to 17 who are listed on a Centrelink Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, or who are in Out of Home Care, are eligible for a voucher of up to \$100 in value to be used towards the cost of club membership.

The key objective of Ticket to Play is to increase the number of young Tasmanians playing sport and supporting the Tasmanian Government's objective of Tasmania being the healthiest population by 2025.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR A VOUCHER?

Applicants must be:

- living in Tasmania;
- aged between 5 and 17 years old at the time of application; and
- be listed on a valid Centrelink Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card (either their own or their parent, guardian or carer's) or be in Out of Home Care.



WHAT CAN I USE A VOUCHER FOR?

The voucher can be used at approved activity providers who meet certain eligibility criteria. You can search for approved activity providers on the Ticket to Play website

The voucher is available for use toward the cost of membership fees. Other items such as uniforms, equipment, boots etc. are not eligible.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR A VOUCHER?

You can apply for a voucher through the Ticket to Play website: www.communities.tas.gov.au/ticket-to-play from 8 February 2019.

The system will assess your child's eligibility and, if approved will automatically send you a unique code via email that you will need to provide to the activity provider at the time of registration.

WHEN WILL THE PROGRAM FINISH?

Vouchers are available from 8 February 2019 and must be redeemed by 31 October 2019.

create
FOUNDATION

Happy Easter!



You're invited to...
CREATE EASTER PARTY!

Come along for a Hopping good time at
Woodys Skate & Play!

Easter Egg Hunt, activities and a BBQ dinner provided

When: Saturday April 13th, 2019

Where: Woodys Skate & Play, Glenorchy

Who: Young people aged 0-25 with a care experience, their care givers and other family members.

RSVP is essential: please ensure you call 6223 7749

or email : Tasmania@create.org.au to register

Places are limited!

This is a free event. All children and Young people must be accompanied and supervised by an adult



Bring an
Easter Basket!



CONTACT US

Office:

4 Hart Place, ROKEBY, TAS 7019

Ph: 03 6212 0513

Opening Hours:

Mon - Thu: 9.00am to 3.00pm

Fri: 9.00am - 2.00pm

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