

caring matters

FKAT NEWSLETTER NO: 21

FROM THE CHAIR

NATIONAL
CONFERENCE

THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCATE

A VISIT TO THE
FKAT CENTRE

NEWS & EVENTS

NEW ONLINE
RESOURCES

from the chair



It has been an extremely busy time since our last newsletter. Hon Member of Parliament Minister Roger Jaensch launched the handbook for carers in Hobart thank you to all who attended with foster carers giving a positive outlook on becoming foster carers. if you have not yet received a copy of the Handbook, there are copies at the fk at office, Rokeby. It was great to meet carers from the South in person.

September is the month where Foster and Kinship carers throughout the state are celebrated, also recognized for the love and commitment they give to the state's most vulnerable children/youth, Functions around the state were held by FKAT, CSS, NGO such as Key Assets and Life Without Barriers...to say thank you.

National Foster Kinship Carers Conference held in Queensland 8th September, the theme Make it Happen...Make it Matter, the conference was hosted by FCQ and was the largest conference to date with 750 delegates in attendance all states and Northern Territory was represented. Friday Night the meet and greet for carers to catch up be inspired for the next 2 days.

Key Note speakers Richard Rose travels between the UK and Australia teaching, Life Story Therapy, is also the author of "The Child's Own Story -Life Story Work with traumatised Children (2004) also other books.

Nathan Wallis from N.Z. nothing boring about Nathan "The developing Brain" Nathan has all the qualifications academic creed, he comes from a background of being a foster child, and foster parent to many. AFKCP conference will be held in 2019 at Scarborough W.A.

October School holidays will be over with children returning to school , time to take a breather for just a while. Before the preparation for the Christmas activities begin. The state meeting and AGM held at the FKAT office. First Aid in Hobart.

Maggie Phillips

JULIAN WATCHORN

CEO

It has been a busy few months since I have started in the job. I have attempted to engage all stakeholders over this time, to gauge the sector and guide FKAT moving forward.

A quick list of events:

I have been involved in ongoing discussion with Child Safety and NGOs around improving the process surrounding care concerns.

We had the Handbook launch at FKAT Centre on 1st September that was very well attended and had good media coverage.

I have had a number of productive conversations with kinship carer representatives about providing greater support for kinship carers.

Jane and Angie from CYS and myself conducted training around the state on 'Children Entering Care' and 'Your People Transition Out of Care'.

I have had conversations with the Children's Commissioner, the new Children's Advocate (Sonya Pringle-Jones), as well as representatives from Child Safety and the NGOs around needs for foster and kinship carers.

I have been working on a Departmental committee looking at improving the retention and recruitment of foster and kinship carers in the State, as well as a collaborative project looking at developing a better working relationship between carers and Departmental Out of Home Care support service.

I attended the National Foster and Kinship Care Conference, and was impressed by the work Foster Care Queensland are doing in collaboration with Queensland Child Safety.

We had an open day at the FKAT Centre for Foster Care Week and Sonya-Pringle-Jones and the Children's Commissioner attended on the day.

Coming up, I will be conducting workshops around the state to promote the new website resources that FKAT have developed.

I am happy to get feedback from members. You can email me at ceo@fkat.org.au.

The Children's Advocate

Sonya Pringle-Jones

We were fortunate to recently have Sonya Pringle-Jones, the newly appointed Children's Advocate come to the FKAT Centre and speak and about her role and to take questions from carers who were there. David Clements, The Children's Commissioner and some of his staff were also at the session.

David Clements spoke about his role and the differences between his role and the Children's Advocate. In a nutshell, it is that Sonya Pringle-Jones can advocate on individual cases for children and young people and David Clements advocates at a systemic level.



carer connect

peer support meetings for foster and kinship carers

North West Carer Connect

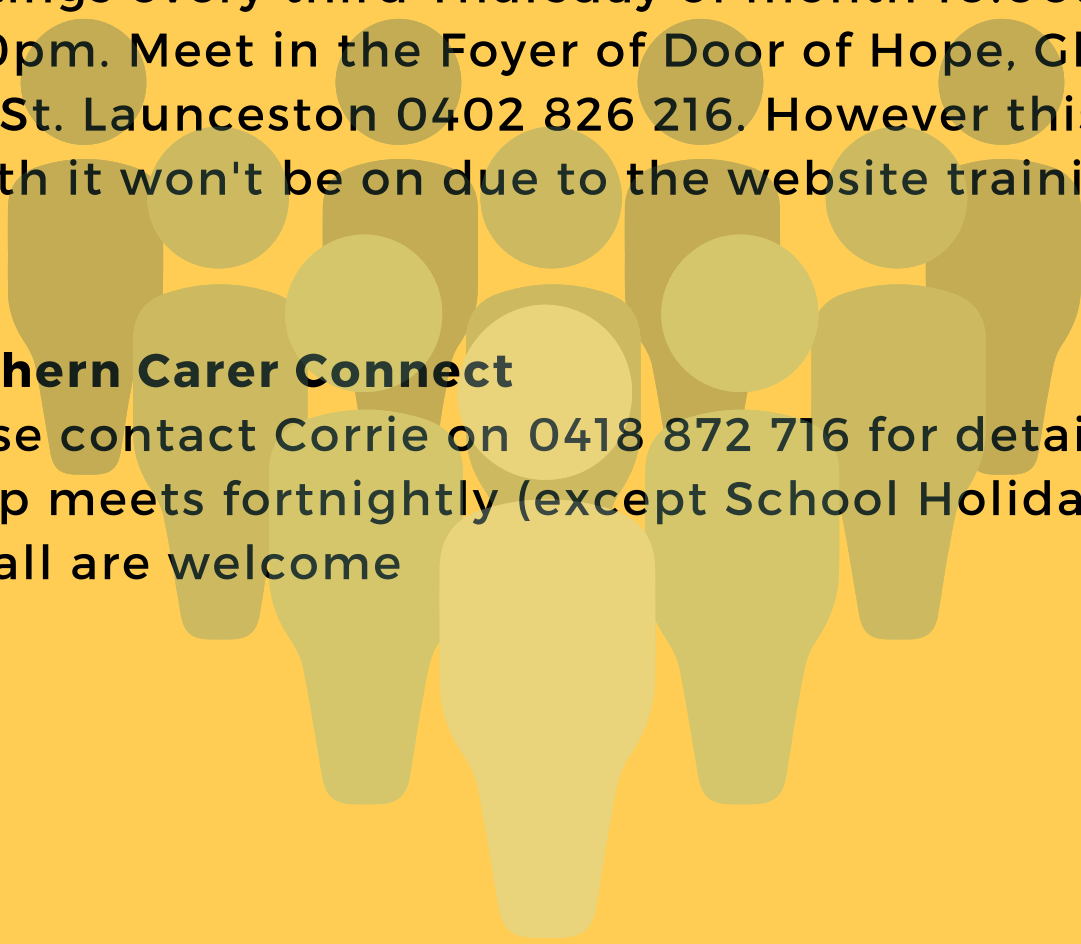
North West : Meet at the Uniting Church Hall every 3 Wednesday at 10.30am Reiby St. Ulverstone opposite KFC. All Welcome.

North Carer Connect

Meetings every third Thursday of month 10.00am – 12.00pm. Meet in the Foyer of Door of Hope, Glen Dhu St. Launceston 0402 826 216. However this month it won't be on due to the website training.

Southern Carer Connect

Please contact Corrie on 0418 872 716 for details. This group meets fortnightly (except School Holidays) and all are welcome





We are pleased to introduce our latest endorsed CPD:

Working Effectively with Diverse Cultures
by Evolation Learning

This course deals with the cultural awareness required for effective communication and cooperation with persons of diverse cultures.

Australia is one of the most culturally and linguistically diverse nations in the world. In the 2006 Census, Australians reported more than 250 different ancestries with many people claiming to have two ancestries. The Census also recorded that almost 400 different languages were spoken in homes across Australia with 200 of those spoken publicly.

Multiculturalism is a very valuable resource in that it provides challenges to the way we think and act and provides the opportunity for people to practice innovation and resourcefulness in the workplace.

Multiculturalism also provides the opportunity for people to become more familiar and connected with the world that exists outside of the communities within which they primarily interact. It is important then to not only understand the value of multiculturalism, but to harness that value in very practical ways. This process begins by proactively learning about other cultural backgrounds.

This online course covers the following topics:

- Reflect cultural awareness in work practice
- Accept cultural diversity as a basis for effective workplace and professional relationships
- Communicate effectively with culturally diverse persons
- Resolve cross-cultural misunderstandings

A certificate of completion is produced after the course is finished.

This training is available online. Enrol for immediate access via this link. The cost is \$19.99.

Please contact Chris by email, chris@evolution.com.au, if you have any questions

FKAT

Board Members

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Vice President Mark Maumill

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Public Officer Anne Bailey

Northern Board Member Anita Jones

Northern Board Member Cecily Rosol

North West Board Member Tammy King

Southern Board Member Trish McMillian

Southern Board Member Ros Deeks

F.A.S.T.

FOSTER AND KINSHIP CARE ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT TEAM

The Foster and Kinship Carer's Association of Tasmania established FAST in 2005 with the aim of providing greater levels of support and advocacy for Foster and Kinship Carers. This move was in response to both state and national surveys that indicated that carers would prefer to be supported by foster care peak bodies and other Foster Carers.

FAST is a team of trained Foster Carers that have volunteered to provide support, advice and advocate on the behalf of other Foster or Kinship Carer either in a group or individual basis. Some of the issues covered by FAST include the Child and Young Persons Act, funding for those in care, complaints in care, insurance, planning for leaving and after care guidelines.

Phone Support Line
1800 149 994



FAST Team Co-ordinator
Dr Julian Watchorn

Southern Regional Delegate
Trish McMillian

Northern Regional Delegate
Anita Jones

North West Regional Delegate
Maggie Phillips

working with children check

Some carers have attempted to re-register when their WWCC is due to expire in a month or so and have found the electronic system will not process their request. Eloise from the WWCC department reports that this may have occurred for two reasons.

Firstly, it is not possible to re-register until 30 days prior to the expiry date. Secondly, there is a glitch in the system in response to the change of name from Department of Health and Human Services to Department of Communities. Eloise indicates that if carers find themselves unable to re-register even though their expiry date is less than 30 days, it is likely to be a result of this “glitch”. She advised that only staff within the WWCC department are able to address this and asks that carers contact her department on the following number 61654758.

CONTACT US

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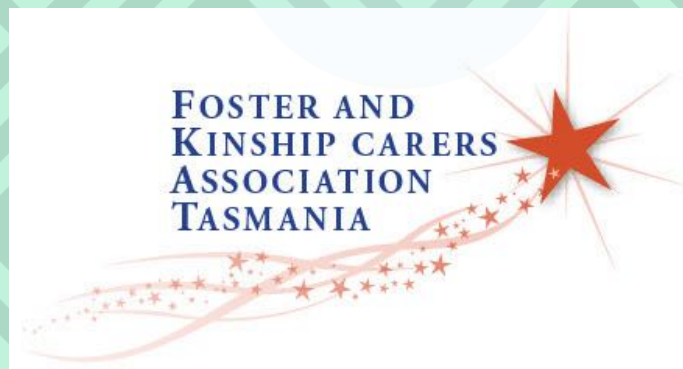
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