

# caring matters

FKAT NEWSLETTER NO: 24

APRIL 2020





# from the chair.

MAGGIE PHILLIPS



The start to 2020 as seen us living in un-precedented times however the need for all of us to stay well and safe in these times is a necessity however challenging it may be. All carer Connect meetings will not go ahead till further notice, FKAT regional representatives in your area will still be available for you to chat with.

Foster & Kinship carers should not feel isolated at this time given due to no direct face to face contact with CYS due to Covid-19. I want to encourage you all to stay connected with your OoHC CSO and the young person/s CSO, the offices are still open. Foster & Kinship Carers Association will also be available to take your call, sometimes that's all we need is a friendly voice at the end of the phone.

I would like to welcome Dr. Kim Backhouse back into her role as FKAT CEO, Kim was planning to meet up with carers to touch base with you all, we have put that on hold until such time the virus is no longer a threat. Kim will be available to take a call from carers is also looking forward to catching up with you all in the future.

I would also like to thank Dr. Julian Watchorn for stepping into the role of acting CEO these last 12 + months the work that Julian executed in this role and continues to see through the projects that had been started, also the many FAST concerns.

The Big Day Out was scheduled for May 2020 the board decided to postpone this successful event until later in the year. This is disappointing its always great to connect with other carers feel a bit pampered so deserved, watching the children/youth being entertained with the staff at PCYC in Launceston...so we look forward to when we can hold this event.

FKAT will be preparing to hold a State Conference in 2021 more information will be forwarded in the months ahead. National Conference is scheduled for September in South Australia, carers will be informed if the date changes for this event.

FKAT board is hoping to host the National Conference in 2022 we are in the early stages of planning these events and more information will follow as time goes on.

Stay Safe, Stay home, Stay well 😊

Regards Maggie



# CEO

# DR KIM BACKHOUSE

Hi Everyone.

It is great to be back on deck at FKAT despite challenging and uncertain times ahead. I really look forward in 2020 to be able to get out and meet up with you all around the State again. I am working Mondays, Tuesday and Fridays this year. At the moment I am spending most of my time working with Communities Tasmania raising issues around how the Department could support our Carers. Congratulations to Anita Jones for being appointed our new Vice President.

My belief is that the safety and wellbeing of the carers we support is our top priority, so feel free to reach out anytime if you require support and advocacy or just wanting to chat.

If you're concerned about Covid-19, you may call the National Coronavirus Helpline for information and advice about COVID-19. The line operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 1800 020 080.

## *Schooling*

Ruth Davidson, Director, Child and Student Wellbeing Department of Education has advised FKAT that: schools are still open and are there to support the learning and wellbeing of children in your care.

We understand children really miss the structure of the school day and keeping the learning routine going will really help your child adjust when things go back to normal at school.

However, if there are circumstances where children in your care need to be at home during COVID19 and you need assistance and support, please contact the child's school about the child's learning needs.

I have enclosed several flyers that may be useful to you or your children or youth in your care.



Take care,

Kim



# **TRAINING & SUPPORT**

**Dr Julian Watchorn**



## **Online Training Resources & Covid-19**

As you are aware, Dr Kim Backhouse has now returned to the role of CEO after a period of leave from the job. I have recently been working on developing a pilot training project based around TBRI (Trust Based Relational Intervention) in collaboration with Child and Youth Services. However, due to Covid-19 we have had to put that process on hold.

Currently, I have been busy chairing the Foster Carers Providers Group meetings that have been focused around the impact of Covid-19 on carers, and exploring agency's responses to the challenges that Covid-19 present.

Separate to this, I'd like to let everyone know that FKAT will be developing a suite of smaller online training and information resources that will become available to everyone very soon.

Finally, TCU, the American University who created TBRI are offering their online TBRI 101 training for free until May 31st, which you can access at.....

<https://child.tcu.edu/sale/>



# HAVE YOU LEFT CARE?



MONASH  
University

*We are interested to speak to young people who have transitioned out of care (foster, kinship and residential care). We want to know what helped and what didn't help with that process. Participation involves a 30 minute phone call with a researcher from Monash University*

*If you participate you will receive a \$40 voucher to say thank you for your time. Are you interested? Please contact Renee below*

**For more information contact Renee O'Donnell**

**Email: [renee.odonnell@monash.edu](mailto:renee.odonnell@monash.edu)**

**Mobile: 0422984527**

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**ELIGIBLE  
PARTICIPANTS**



Aged 17 years and over

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## NOTICE: THE BIG DAY OUT

Due to the impact of Covid-19, 'The Big Day Out' fro 2020 has been postponed. It will be rescheduled to Spring 2020. Further details will be distributed to members in due course.



# CONTACT US

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