



FAMILIES & CHILDREN
TASMANIA

Welcome to 2021

FROM THE NEW FACT CHAIR

Hello FACT members and welcome to the first edition of our 2021 newsletter. FACT acknowledges that we were a little quiet in communicating with our members last year. Please be assured that we have been working away in the background to progress the interests of the sector in a wide range of areas, most significantly in regards to COVID -19. You can read all about our activities in 2020 on page 2.

This year I have taken over as Chair of the FACT Board and I thank Noel Mundy for his leadership of the Board over the last 12 months.

Looking ahead the Board is planning a range of forums and activities that will be of interest to the sector, including a Lunchtime Seminar Series each month, starting in February. Please see page 3 for details. We are hopeful of welcoming the National Children’s Commissioner in June.

You are also welcome to nominate potential speakers, get in touch at fact@fact.asn.au

At the first FACT Board meeting this week, the Board decided on several key priorities which include

- Facilitating sector participation and representing the sector into the Commission on Enquiry into Child Sexual Abuse and enhancing our approach to safe-guarding;
- Child Safety and other Service System Reforms, including contributing to consultations as they arise (see page XX for details on current consultation processes).
- Responding to the needs of under 16 group of young people who are or are at risk of homelessness.
- Participating in the national agenda through the national Child Wellbeing Association and continuing the advocacy push for Kinship Carers.

On behalf of the Board, I welcome your feedback and extend an invitation to all members to get involved and have your voice heard.

Caroline Brown — FACT Chair



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2020 CHAIR'S REPORT TO AGM

This year has been a busy year for all FACT Board Members as we try to meet the needs of our members and stakeholders without benefit of having an Executive Officer as we have had in previous two years. FACT again submitted a budget submission with the support of our members and national peaks but unfortunately were not successful in achieving funding this year.

Despite our limited human resources we have had a positive impact across the sector and represented Tasmania at a range of state and national forums.

FACT Board members were active participants in the Our Voice Our Future Project and followed this project through to its conclusion in May 2020. FACT was sorry to see that this project did not attain the outcomes that had been anticipated at its commencement but acknowledge that it did reinvigorate relationships and connections across the sector. There is still a great deal more work to undertake in this space.

FACT hosted a workshop with the eminent Dr Lucy Peake focusing on Informal Kinship Carer which was well received by members and guests alike. FACT was represented at a range of forums and events including a workshop hosted by the Department of Social Services focussed on establishing a centre of excellence for child sexual abuse and participated in the Youth Taskforce.

FACT prepared a submission in response to the Department of Communities Consultation for developing a program to prevent harmful sexual behaviours for children and young people in Tasmania.

The FACT Board has met with the Secretary and Deputy Secretary for Children, Department of Communities, to discuss the ongoing reform agenda and to offer the assistance of FACT members in achieving that agenda. We have also met with the Commissioner for Children to also progress the priorities of our sector. As an example FACT has persisted with our efforts to negotiate a sector wide protocol to facilitate the smooth transition of foster carers between agencies when issues cannot be resolved or where a particular services is a better match for a foster carer's needs. This agreement is nearing agreement and FACT hopes that it will be implemented in 20/21.

In the second half of 2019/20 FACT was committed to participating various forums relating to the COVID-19 Pandemic and working with TASCROSS to ensure the views of our sector were represented though the Communities Services Industry Roundtable. A significant commitment was our participation in the Premier's Council for Social and Economic Recovery which met on a very regular basis for a six month period of this year.

FACT is the state of Tasmania's peak body representative on the National Child and Family Welfare Association and we have attended all meetings of this network this year.

The FACT Board also holds a position on the Advisory Board to the Australian Child Maltreatment Study which is the first national study of the prevalence and health impacts of all five forms of child maltreatment in Australia (physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, neglect, and exposure to domestic violence). A presentation on this project is scheduled for the upcoming annual general meeting.

FACT continued to prepare newsletters and disseminate information as broadly as possible across the sector and we aim to continue this role, acknowledging that this has been impacted by the lack of a staff member to take on this function.

The FACT Board made the decision to suspend the collection of membership fees in the 19/20 financial year and will review this decision at the upcoming AGM.

FACT strives to continue to be a voice for children and families via our member organisations in 2020/21. We look forward to increased communication, consultation and shared decision making with the Governments at all levels in 2021.

Noel Mundy

Chair



LUNCHTIME FORUMS

Throughout the year FACT will be organising a series of lunchtime forums. These will be held on the fourth Wednesday of every month starting in February. Initially these will be held via MS Teams to facilitate everyone having input all across the State. Topics will be of broad appeal and varied in nature. If you have suggested presenters please do let us know fact@fact.asn.au Bring your lunch and hear a great presentation or participate in an invigorating discussion.

Lunchtime Forum Dates 2021

The fourth Wednesday of every month

12:30—1:30 PM

24 February

24 March

28 April

23 June

28 July

25 August

22 September

27 October

24 November

Who's Who on the FACT Board

The FACT Board continues with consistent membership this year though different folk have different roles.. Feel free to contact any of us at any time

Caroline Brown—Chair

Ruby Frankcombe—Secretary

Geraldine Ellis-Maguire—Treasurer and Public Officer

Noel Mundy—Board Member

Chris Demeyer—Board Member

Ros Atkinson—Board Member

Jurek Stopczynski— Board Member



CURRENT CONSULTATIONS—SUMMARY

The following documents are currently out for consultation.

Child Safe Organisations Bill 2020

Child Health and Wellbeing Strategy, 0-25 year olds

Commission of Enquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

CHILD SAFE ORGANISATIONS BILL 2020

The Government has published draft *Child Safe Organisations Legislation* for consultation and comment. This legislation will apply to all organisations who have a funding agreement with the State Government so it is important that you read it and have your say.

The draft document can be found at <https://www.justice.tas.gov.au/community-consultation/>

Consultation is open until **19 February 2021**.

This has caught many of us by surprise as it was not widely circulated so please either respond yourself or forward comments to FACT by the noon on 17 February for consideration in the FACT Sector Response.



CHILD AND WELLBEING STRATEGY

The Government is developing its first Child and Wellbeing Strategy. The Premier, the Honourable Peter Gutwein has said

“My vision for Tasmania is that no matter where you live, no matter what your background is, no matter what your circumstances are – opportunities will be there and if you want to grasp those opportunities a better life will be within your reach.”

We all know Tasmania is a beautiful place to live. I want it to be the best place to live, grow up and raise a family.

To help me achieve this vision, I need your help.”

Please share your views, hopes and dreams for children and young people in Tasmania. I need to hear your ideas for action so I know what’s important to you. Your voice is important – have your say on this website. I look forward to hearing from you.”

You can view the draft strategy and the consultation questions at <https://wellbeing.tas.gov.au/> Closing date for comments is 19 March 2021. If you would like to contribute to the FACT response please [email](#) by COB on 16 March 2021

Young people are also encouraged to have their say via postcard., drawings and any other means.

REVIEW OF FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

The Department of Communities has engaged consultants from the Brotherhood of St Lawrence to undertake a review of Family Support Services. According to Department of Communities material the *Review will include stakeholder consultation with family support providers, government agencies. The Review will also research evidenced approaches and best-practice approaches to service design and delivery.*

The findings will shaped the commissioning of services in the coming year. Consultations are being held now, so if you want to be involved please click [here](#) to send the Departmental coordinator an email.



TRAINING AND EVENTS

ANGLICARE COMMUNITIES FOR CHILDREN: VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

WHEN	2 and 3 March
WHERE	Online
COST	FREE
REGISTER	CLICK HERE

Keynote speakers

Dr Laura Jana (USA)
Technology-driven innovations in health and education

Peter Hutton (Vic)
Implementing change in schools

Marina Dickson (Tas)
Understanding the neuroscience of play and movement in children's development

Darren Mort (Vic)
Giving children a voice as families deal with separation and divorce

Will Smith (Tas)
Empowering young people to become tomorrow's leaders

SAVE THE DATE: DANIEL MORECOMBE FOUNDATION TASMANIAN FORUM WEDNESDAY 4 AUGUST 2021

In the meantime, check out the great on-line training resources produced by the Daniel Morecombe Foundation by clicking [here](#). It only takes a minute to register!



TRAINING AND EVENTS

The digital divide and remote service delivery



Presenters: Jo Barraket, Annette Michaux and Kathryn Bannister, Facilitator: Anagha Joshi

Wednesday, 24 February 2021 1:00–2:00 pm AEDT.

COVID-19 has produced increasing demands on many child, family and community welfare services, including mental health and domestic violence. At the same time, due to restrictions, services have needed to shift to remote service delivery, which has exposed inequities in community levels of digital access and literacy. Many service providers have created innovative solutions to continue supporting their clients and community.

Register by clicking [here](#)

**RESPECTFUL
RELATIONSHIPS
PROGRAM**

LOVE BiTES 

Launceston 23–25 February, 2021

Kingston 2–4 March, 2021

Cost \$495

Love Bites is a respectful relationships education program that focuses on the development of respectful relationships and violence prevention for 15-17 year olds.

Love Bites Junior is a respectful relationships education program that focuses on the development of respectful relationships for 11-14 year olds.

The trauma informed module will provide an opportunity for facilitators to recognise the signs and symptoms of trauma and respond by integrating the knowledge about trauma into the delivery of NAPCAN's Respectful Relationships Programs and to actively resist re-traumatisation for young people.

Who should attend: Those that work with young people and are comfortable in working in the areas of sexual assault and relationship violence. The program can be delivered in schools and in out of school settings.

Register [here](#)



FAMILIES & CHILDREN TASMANIA

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of FACT is open to family and children's services providers across the State.

To find out how to join email us by [clicking here](#)

For current members, please note that after more than a 12 month membership holiday membership renewal notices and invoices will be sent shortly.

Membership is \$200 per organisation or \$50 for individuals.

Stop Press Poverty Round Table

Late RSVP's are still being accepted for this forum looking at the development of a new approach for assessing multidimensional child poverty. We will be holding the roundtable twice: [Monday 15 February at 2pm–4pm](#), and [Tuesday 16 February at 9–11am](#), at the Stables conference Room, RACV Hobart Hotel, 154-156 Collins Street, Hobart simply click your preferred date to register.

**FACT - Families &
Children Tasmania**

**PO Box 102
Sorell TAS 7172**

[Email](#)