

FOSTER & KINSHIP

CARERS ASSOCIATION TASMANIA NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

2022 is going way too fast! It only seems like yesterday that I had the opportunity of catching up with over 50 carers at the Big Day Out in May. It was great seeing everyone and I appreciated all the efforts families made to travel from the South and NW of the State to be at this event. It was another great day. The YMCA has now officially closed after 100 years so we will change locations next year for the BDO.

A few things to update you all on. I represented FKAT before the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings. This Commission was established on 15 March 2021 by the Governor of Tasmania. I advocated to the three Commissioners around registration, accreditation, training and an independent Tribunal to appeal decisions by the Department. The Commission is equivalent to a royal commission and is independent of the Tasmanian Government. Under its Terms of Reference, the Commission's inquiry will focus on the adequacy and appropriateness of the Tasmanian Government's current responses to allegations and incidents of child sexual abuse in institutional contexts. Victim-survivors, their supporters and other people who wish to provide information directly to a Commissioner can register to attend a session with a Commissioner.

Sessions will allow people to speak directly with a Commissioner about their experience and any views they may have about what needs to change to prevent child sexual abuse and improve responses to, and reporting of, abuse in institutional settings.

The Commission will submit its report and recommendations to the Governor of Tasmania by 1 May 2022. Information may be found at <https://commissionofinquiry.tas.gov.au/home>.

The next important update is that The Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997 will be reviewed this year. I have joined the Advisory Group to represent carers and provide feedback into the review of legislative process. If carers have any issues, concerns, believe there are gaps in the legislation or questions that they would like me to raise during the process please contact me by phone or email.

On 21 June, a Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework Project team met for the first time to discuss a framework. I will sit on the project team and be involved with this project as well to represent carers and will provide information as the project starts to roll out.

MESSAGES FROM CEO AND CHAIR

If anyone is interested in attending that National Conference/International Conference in Darwin in September, please let me know as soon as possible as accommodation is becoming difficult to source and we need to have everything finalised by 1 August 22.

I also had the opportunity to meet with the Acting Deputy Secretary, of Child Youth Services on 20th June and planned to meet again before the end of school term. I spent time discussing the increases to cost of living and ask her to consider given inflation and overall cost of living. I will continue to have this discussion with the Department moving forward.

Keep up the great work that you all do everyone. I look forward to seeing you all in Foster Carers Week which will commence on Saturday 10 September. We are holding a collaborative event at Camp Clayton on the day and should be so much fun. All welcome. See Flyer for details. Other events will be held State-wide also.

Kim

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Hello to All,

Well Winter has truly arrived in Tassie. I'd just like to take the opportunity to say a few quick words about our very successful Big Day Out 2022. Firstly thank you to Kim and all the FKAT Team, you truly pulled off a great day. The new addition of the head and shoulder massages was a big hit with bookings the whole time, I even saw a few hesitant participants come out with huge smiles. The nail team were fantastic too, from the young to the more mature there were great colours coming out of the room.

Catering as always was enjoyed by all and lots of smiles all around, the weather wasn't exactly our friend outside but the fun and games inside well and truly made up for it. As I wandered around getting feedback, the results were outstandingly positive, we definitely missed having The Commissioner for Children Leanne McLean and her team with crafts join us, but Leanne sent her apologies and will be aiming to be with us again next year.

A huge thank you again to Kim for organising our accommodation and Friday evening meal, I have had the opportunity to see and appreciate all the behind the scenes work that goes on from the FKAT Team as a whole, and I'm sure it was a weekend enjoyed by all with many new friendships formed.

We will keep you updated in the newsletter with everything happening over the next few months. Stay warm and safe and I'm looking forward to meeting more FKAT members as I get around the state and to more carer connect meetings.

Jen

EMAIL: CEO@FCATAS.ORG.AU
4 HART PLACE, ROKEBY, TASMANIA.

IN MEMORY

Ken Abery 21.09.1938- 05.05.2022

On behalf of FKAT and on a personal level, I would like to acknowledge the passing of Ken Abery, former President of FCAT.

Ken, a well-known foster carer from Hobart, along with his wife Sheila, fostered for many years in the area, respected by many. Ken and Sheila were awarded a life membership by the board of FKAT.

Ken was very passionate about bringing changes to the foster care system and would lobby whenever the opportunity arose.

Those carers who have been around for many years would remember Ken and his desire to see carers issues highlighted so they would feel part of a team and not “just a carer”.

Ken was chair/president for FCAT (now known as FKAT) for several years here in Tasmania he was also chair/president of AFCA the national body (now known as the National Collective) and was involved along with AFCA board members in discussing the importance of a national standard for Australian carers.

Ken on behalf of the FCAT board at the time was successful in receiving a funding grant to implement F.A.S.T. in Tasmania, Ken invited Foster Carers to attend training with Brian Smith from Queensland.

On a personal level I worked closely with Ken not only as a board member, also as the secretary of the FCAT board and I learned a great deal from Ken, as Ken was a great organiser and was always wanting the job done professionally. I didn't always agree with Ken, and vice versa however the job always got done.

May you Rest in Peace Ken.

Maggie and FKAT board



BIG DAY OUT SUMMARY

BIG DAY OUT - YMCA, MAY 14TH, 2022

This years Big Day Out was another great success with over 120 carers and children in attendance. It was lovely to see everyone out and about enjoying the day following almost two and a half years of the Covid-19 global pandemic.

Carers and their children arrived with smiles on their faces anticipating a fantastic day and they were not disappointed,

The YMCA hosted our event this year and ensured that all ages were catered for. The bigger kids enjoyed the pool table, chill out area and the Zorb balls. The younger kids had a great time on the trampolines and gymnastic obstacle course while the adults indulged at the pampering stations, receiving massages and having their nails painted.

Coffee Buzz food van provided carers and children with a delicious luncheon and Banjos Kings Meadows platters meant no one left with an empty tummy.

A big thank you to all carers and their children for making the effort to attend this years event, we hope you had a wonderful time. A heartfelt thanks also goes to FKAT CEO, Chair and Board members for their time in organising the event and participating on the day, making sure that our carers had a great time.

Sadly YMCA have now closed their doors and we will be unable to use them in the future, however FKAT will be seeking another great venue that can cater for all ages and will be just as successful in hosting our event as the YMCA has been the last few years.

Next years Big Day Out will be bigger and better than ever. We look forward to hosting you again in 2023.





INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

TBRI® is an attachment-based, trauma-informed intervention that is designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children.

Presented by Lionel Walters, TBRI® Practitioner
and Statewide Manager of Out-of-home Care

5 July	Hobart	Geilston Bay Boat Club
1 August	Launceston	Silverdome
6 September	Hobart	Geilston Bay Boat Club
27 September	Devonport	paranaple Convention Centre
8 November	Hobart	Geilston Bay Boat Club
6 December	Launceston	Silverdome

All sessions run from 9.30am to 2.30pm. Bring your own lunch and snacks.

REGISTER AT [trybooking.com
/eventlist/fosterkinshiptas](http://trybooking.com/eventlist/fosterkinshiptas)



Questions? Contact the CYF
Out-of-home Care Team at
cyf-oohc@communities.tas.gov.au

Department of Communities Tasmania
Children, Youth and Families



EMAIL: CEO@FCATAS.ORG.AU
4 HART PLACE, ROKEBY, TASMANIA.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Speech Pathology Tasmania
presents

CIRCLE OF SECURITY PROGRAM™

with Rosie Martin

TERM 3 PROGRAM

WEDNESDAYS 10:30AM -12:30PM

AUGUST 3 - SEPTEMBER 21

For more information
www.spt.com.au
ph. 6234 5717
programs@spt.com.au



Circle Of Security Parenting Program – free training for carers

Speech Pathology Tasmania is thrilled to partner with the Foster and Kinship Carers Association of Tasmania to offer the Circle of Security Program to grandparents raising grandchildren, informal kin, and Foster & Kinship Carers.

This program explores the development of connection, relationship and attachment – which are also foundations for language development, social skills development and good mental health. SPT has been running these sessions in their clinic for around 10 years. “We love the warm, accepting, non-judgmental, non-blaming approach to exploring attachment.” Says facilitator Rosie Martin.

This is a valuable training opportunity with learnings that can be applied to all relationships at any age or stage. The course involves meeting in a small group online via zoom, once a week for 8 sessions. FKAT will fund each participant to undertake the course. A group specifically for FKAT participants will take place on Wed mornings during term 3. FKAT will also sponsor places in the term 2 Tues evening group which is open to the public.

Term 3: 10:30am - 12:30pm Wednesdays, August 3 – September 21

More information about the program can be found at www.spt.com.au.

To register your interest please email programs@spt.com.au or phone Renee at SPT on 6234 5717.

UPCOMING EVENTS



INTERNATIONAL FOSTER CARE CONFERENCE 2022

CELEBRATING IDENTITY, CULTURE, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY

IFCO and NATIONAL CONFERENCE DARWIN 22 -25 SEPTEMBER 2022

The IFCO 2022 Conference is a particularly special one as we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of International Foster Care Organisation and the 10th Anniversary of Foster and Kinship Carers Association NT Incorporated! IFCO is an international organisation with a sole aim to support family-based foster and kinship care for out-of-home children and young people. IFCO is committed to improving the lives of children in foster and kinship care by supporting the children, their carers, the professionals who work with them and the policymakers.

Please email ceofcatas.org.au if you wish to secure a spot at this years conference.



CREATE Upcoming Events and Activities

Check out our free activities for children and young people with a care experience! For more information, details, or to RSVP/register you can email tasmania@create.org.au, or call 03 6223 7749

Register your interest for any of these FREE activities today!
Young people from all backgrounds welcome

- Youth Advisory Group Launceston**
Get together with other young people 10+ with a care experience, share food, a fun activity and share your thoughts on how we can change the care system for the better!
Tues 12th July 2022
School Holidays
- Speak Up Level 1 and Bounce Hobart**
Speak up for young people 13+ that equip them with skills and knowledge about advocacy and leadership. Participants who complete Speak Up can become a Young Consultant with CREATE and help make positive change!
Wed 20th July 2022
School Holidays
- Youth Advisory Group Hobart**
Get together with other young people 10+ with a care experience, share food, a fun activity and share your thoughts on how we can change the care system for the better!
Thurs 11th August 2022
- CREATE Your Future-Learn to Earn Hobart**
Learn skills for independence in this money workshop alongside other young people with a care experience, share food and a fun activity!
Sat 27th August 2022
- Youth Advisory Group State-wide Zoom**
Get together with other young people 10+ with a care experience online, and share your thoughts on how we can change the care system for the better! Young people who participate in the YAG will receive a \$20 voucher.
Wed 14th September 2022
- Child Protection Week Art Competition State-wide**
Get involved in this awesome art competition where you can contribute to a larger art piece which will be permanently displayed for the care system to experience. Those who register will be sent an art pack, and when you return your painting, you will receive a \$20 voucher and go into the draw to win a \$50 voucher.
Register by Fri 29th July, so packs can be sent out.

create FOUNDATION

CREATE Foundation acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land and we pay our respects to them, their culture, and to Elders past, present and future.

www.create.org.au | 1800 105 655

The Boomer Challenge



OVERCOME SCHOOL HOLIDAY BOREDOM WITH A FUN, EDUCATIONAL, INTERACTIVE ONLINE GAME FOR YOUR CHILDREN.

The Boomer Challenge

The Boomer Challenge is the latest FREE resource from the Daniel Morcombe Foundation.

The Boomer Challenge gives children aged 8 to 12 the skills to recognise potentially unsafe and risky online situations, and to make decisions and problem solve in the online world.

Join Millsy, his sister Kristy and their technologically challenged grandparents for a fun and engaging online game that will teach children about the pitfalls of the online world.

Visit: danielmorcombe.com.au for further details.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**MEDIA
RELEASE**

June 2022



OK, so a nest is a home – Launch

The Commissioner for Children and Young People Leanne McLean today launched a new book, '[OK, so a nest is a home – Views and experiences of Tasmanian children and young people in out-of-home care](#)'.

Ms McLean said an important part of her role as Commissioner is to promote and empower the participation of children and young people in the making of decisions, or the expressing of opinions, on matters that may affect their lives – including children living in Out of Home Care in Tasmania which includes foster care, kinship care and residential care in Tasmania.

“Every night, about 1100 Tasmanian children and young people are in out-of-home care. That is about 1 in every 100 or 1% of children and young people in communities across the State,” Ms McLean said.

“In 2021-22, as part of my Out-of-Home Care Monitoring Program, it was my great pleasure to undertake a series of creative consultations and discussions with children and young people with a care experience to explore the theme of 'Being Loved and Safe'.

“These consultations also delivered stunning artworks and candid quotes about young Tasmanians' experiences and views about out-of-home care.

“These have been brought together, with the help of the creative organisation *All That We Are*, in a beautiful picture book.”

Ms McLean said ***OK, so a nest is a home*** provides an easily accessible and honest insight into the lives of Tasmanian children and young people with a care experience.

“Later this year my office will release a report around the theme of Being Loved and Safe. But right now, I want to draw everyone's focus to what Tasmanian children and young people have told me themselves about the safety and stability of their lives.”

“There is so much we can learn when we listen to what children and young people have to say – this beautiful book contains heartfelt insights about what is and is not working well for some children and young people in out-of-home care.

Leanne and her team are inviting you to Come along to view the beautiful book, reflect on what children and young people in out-of-home care have to say, and consider how we can act on their ideas to improve Tasmania's out-of-home care system.

Friday 29 July 12pm – St Helens Library

Monday 29 August 10am – Huonville Library

Tuesday 20 September 11am – Queenstown Library

Register now - Please email childcomm@childcomm.tas.gov.au or phone (03) 6166 1366 to register for a launch event, noting which location you'll be attending.

UPCOMING EVENTS NORTHERN REGION



**Foster Care Week
2022**

Please come join us
for a free luncheon
celebrating carers
during foster care
week 2022.

*Luncheon at
Apricus
Launceston*

**Friday 16th September
11AM-1PM**

RSVP by 6th September to
ceo@fcatas.org.au or
ANITA 0451 309 775

**FOSTER CARE
WEEK
2022**

FKAT WOULD LIKE TO KINDLY INVITE
ALL CARERS TO JOIN THEM FOR A FREE
NDIS INFO SESSION

**13TH SEPTEMBER - 10AM
TAILRACE CENTRE, RIVERSIDE**

FACILITATED BY JULIAN WATCHORN AND
AMANDA WILLIAMS.
EARLY CHILDHOOD PRACTISIONER AND
AREA CO-ORDINATOR BOTH PRESENTING
ON THE DAY.

RSVP TO ANITA ON 0451 309 775
OR EMAIL CEO@FCATAS.ORG.AU

EMAIL: CEO@FCATAS.ORG.AU
4 HART PLACE, ROKEBY, TASMANIA.

UPCOMING EVENTS NORTH WEST REGION

PLEASE JOIN FKAT TO CELEBRATE

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS IN JULY AT TRANQUILLES HAWLEY BEACH

FREE LUNCH
PROVIDED BY
FKAT



11:30 AM - 1-30 PM WEDNESDAY 27TH JULY 2022
9 GONBOWIE DRIVE, ON PORT SORELL RD.
RSVP BY 11TH JULY TO MAGGIE 0400 876 907

PLEASE BRING A GIFT TO THE VALUE OF \$15.00

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL THERE

FOSTER CARE
WEEK
2022



FKAT WOULD LIKE TO KINDLY INVITE
ALL CARERS TO JOIN THEM FOR A FREE
NDIS INFO SESSION

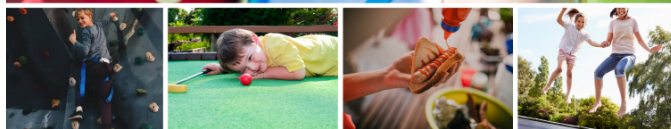
DATE: TBA - 10AM
FKAT OFFICE, PENGUIN

FACILITATED BY JULIAN WATCHORN.
EARLY CHILDHOOD PRACTISIONER AND
AREA CO-ORDINATOR BOTH PRESENTING
ON THE DAY.

RSVP TO CEOFCATAS.ORG.AU



You're invited!



Foster Family Fun Day

Celebrate Foster and Kinship Care Week with an amazing day out for the whole family at Camp Clayton!

Come along and enjoy a delicious BBQ lunch and plenty of free entertainment for the kids, including face painting, rock climbing, trampolining, mini golf, art and craft activities and ice-cream.

And we haven't forgotten the grown-ups who will be treated to a little relaxation, some well-earned pampering and free coffee while the kids are having fun.

When: Saturday 10 September, 11am - 2.00pm

Where: Camp Clayton, 41 Clayton Road, Ulverstone

RSVP: To book for your family, scan the QR Code
or visit www.bit.ly/TASFunDay-Sept2022

Please include any special dietary requirements when booking.



Proudly sponsored by:



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FOSTER AND
KINSHIP CARERS
ASSOCIATION
TASMANIA



EMAIL: CEO@FCATAS.ORG.AU
4 HART PLACE, ROKEBY, TASMANIA.

UPCOMING EVENTS SOUTHERN REGION



**FOSTER CARE
WEEK
2022**

FKAT WOULD LIKE TO KINDLY INVITE
ALL CARERS TO JOIN THEM FOR A FREE
NDIS INFO SESSION

13TH SEPTEMBER - 10AM
FKAT OFFICE, 4 HART PLACE, ROKEBY

FACILITATED BY JULIAN WATCHORN AND
BOB SCHNIERER,
EARLY CHILDHOOD PRACTISIONER AND
AREA CO-ORDINATOR BOTH PRESENTING
ON THE DAY.

RSVP TO JEN ON 0418 850 008
OR EMAIL [CEO@FCATAS.ORG.AU](mailto:ceo@fcatas.org.au)

**Foster Care Week
2022**

Please come join us for
a free luncheon
celebrating carers
during foster care
week 2022.

*Luncheon at
Grand
Chancellor
Hobart*

Friday 16th September
12 noon - 2.15 PM

RSVP by 9th September to
ceo@fcatas.org.au or

CARER Q & A SESSION

Dr Julian Watchorn will be available to answer questions from carers, and offer advice and information about carer related issues. You are welcome to come along, sit in and listen to the discussion.

10.30AM - 12.30PM
**FRIDAY
22 JULY**
FKAT Centre
4 Hart Place, ROKEBY



**DR JULIAN
WATCHORN**
Clinical Psychologist

**POSSIBLE DISCUSSION
TOPICS**

- Managing challenging behaviour.
- Negotiating Transfer of Guardianship.
- Finding a psychologist.
- Upcoming training programs.
- Where to find resources for carers.

RSVP's to julian@fkat.org.au



EMAIL: CEO@FCATAS.ORG.AU
4 HART PLACE, ROKEBY, TASMANIA.