

FOSTER CARERS ASSOCIATION TASMANIA (Inc.)

P.O. BOX 610 WYNYARD

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Mobile 0437006876

NEWSLETTER



From the Presidents Desk

Welcome to another year, school holidays are over and life returns to “normal”.

So much has happened already, the KPMG recommendations were received by C&FS just prior to Christmas, and details from this report are included in the newsletter. Dr. Meredith Hodgson will be holding a briefing on the “Practice Framework for Child Protection Services” on Monday 3rd March unfortunately that is after the deadline for this newsletter but we will include details from it in the next issue.

After lobbying for many months C&FS have at last agreed to review the Funding Methodology as Fuel and Electricity costs keep rising. We were not successful with our request for special fuel allowance until the review is completed and therefore hope that any raise in the Funding Methodology payments will be backdated.

A policy on “Administering Medication” was released last August and Carers in the South East will be given an outline of this policy on the near future at carer information sessions. An outline of the policy is included in this issue. You should request a copy of the guidelines to be included in your Foster Carers Manual to ensure the safety and protection of those in your care and your family members.

The “Big Day Out” is rapidly approaching (30th March) so please remember to confirm your attendance and to book transport if needed. You are welcome to bring all children in your care. Don’t worry if you currently have no foster children, this is a day out for all Foster Carers so come and meet both old and new friends. We will also be launching our new Web Site on this day as the previous one under the DHSS banner is no longer available to us.

Our State Conference will be held in Burnie this (23rd August) now is the time to make a note on your calendar and a conference flyer will be available in the near future.

This association has joined with the Foster Parents Support Network to form a new partnership “Australian Foster and Kinship Carers Partnership”. This will enable us to lobby the Commonwealth Government as a united body on such issues as Means testing of Carers when receiving Family Tax benefits etc... But still maintain our individual status. To mark this, we are, as a State and a National body, supporting and will be attending the NSW Foster Parents Support Network conference in June of this year.

Ken Abery

Brief Summary of Survey Results

Foster Carere Association of Tasmania, conducted a follow up survey late last year.
The Survey period : July 1st. To September 30th. 2007.

Participants were asked if they had received each of the following:

- A) OoHC Placement forms
- B) Essential Information plus care & placement plan
- C) First review of care and placement plan

This survey was conducted in order to gauge the proportion of foster carers in Tasmania who had received various Children and Family Services (CFS) Out of Home Care (OoHC) forms and plans.

Although the response was from a small percentage of carers, the portion of those carers who have not received adequate information is alarming. It is known that carers consistently query the lack of information supplied for those they care for.

The OoHC placement form should go to the care provider when the child enters care. This form in turn lays the foundations for an effective care-child relationship...They are meeting their new carer for the first time, and may have negative experiences of adults and/or strangers.

Participation also commented on the reaction of staff when pressed for information. The responses received from staff range from "it will be okay" or "you are not the only case I have to manage" High work loads and a lack of understanding of the system being used may impact on the inadequate provision of information but must not be an impediment to supplying the information required to those that need it.

Medication Policy

Carers may not be aware that a new medication policy is now in effect. This policy is in regard to the administration of medication to children/young person in care. It is important that when a carer has a child placed with them, and on medication that all relevant details come with the child/young person and medication chart. FCAT has only just been made aware of the existence of this policy, and due to its length cannot be included in this newsletter. If carers would like to know more please contact Ken Abery ...the contact number is on the front of this newsletter.

AUSTRALIAN CHILDHOOD FOUNDATION

**Creating and sustaining therapeutic re-parenting in out of home care–
Enhancing placement outcomes for children and young people through
trauma based integrative practices of care.**

Expressions of interest from carers, wishing to attend Seminar/workshop run by the ACF, (Australian childhood foundation). April 28th. 9.30am – 4.pm.

The workshop will be held at the Hobart Function and Conference Centre, Elizabeth St. FCAT will be looking to fund 6 carers to attend the workshop, it is anticipated that two (2) carers from each region will attend, and for those traveling from the North and North West will have the option to stay overnight. Please contact Ken Abery 0437006876, Maggie Phillips 0400 876907.

Creating and sustaining therapeutic re-parenting in out of home care

Enhancing placement outcomes for children and young people through trauma based integrative practices of care.

A workshop with Kate Cairns (England)



INTERNATIONAL SPEAKER SEMINAR

The international speaker seminars are important opportunities to hear first hand from international leaders in the fields of abuse related trauma, child protection, children's rights and family intervention and support

Therapeutic care is at the forefront of international efforts to reform out of home care. Kate Cairns has been a leader in conceptualising and evolving effective practices of care for children who have experienced abuse and neglect. Drawing on theory and research about attachment, trauma and resilience, this workshop centres on how to create and support placements for children that are therapeutic in their intent. It will examine the critical ideas for foster care workers, child protection workers, residential workers, education personnel and other therapeutic staff to consider in implementing effective case plans for children with complex needs and challenging behaviour. Firmly based in the day to day reality of living and working with traumatised children, the workshop will provide practical strategies for planning, integrating and monitoring strategies that meet the needs of individual children at home, school and other important relational environments.

Seminar Dates

MELBOURNE	21/4/08
HOBART	28/4/08
ADELAIDE	1/5/08
PERTH	5/5/08
SYDNEY	8/5/08
BRISBANE	12/5/08
CANBERRA	28/5/08

Cost

\$240 (inclusive GST)

Learning Outcomes

- Understand what traumatised children need from out of home care placements
- Explore the core dimensions of therapeutic re-parenting
- Use secondary trauma as a model to make sense of the impact of caring
- Integrate ways to prevent and treat secondary stress disorders in children in care
- Identify effective strategies to better resource carers to enable them to stabilise and transform children's trauma
- Conceptualise how to build and use effective care teams involving carers, schools, biological parents, protective workers, teachers and other relevant professionals

Who is Kate Cairns?

Kate Cairns is the Training Director and a founder of Akamas, a UK-based training organisation which provides unique online qualifications for foster carers, teachers and others who live and work with vulnerable children. Kate is a highly regarded and inspiring face-to-face trainer and lecturer, and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

As well as being a social worker, Kate is a former foster parent who along with her family provided permanent care to twelve foster children between 1975 and 1997. Kate then became a trainer and consultant with BAAF (British Association for Adoption and Fostering), before the establishment of Akamas in 2003.

For further enquiries, contact Liz Alexander on training@childhood.org.au
Or register on our website, by fax (form overleaf) or by phone

www.childhood.org.au 1800 176 453

National Conference

June 13th.-14th.

“LOOKING FORWARD”

**Crown Plaza
Baulkham Hills
NSW**

**STATE
CONFERENCE WILL BE
HELD ON THE NORTH
WEST COAST
AUGUST 2008**

NORTH WEST NEWS

The first meeting for 2008 was held at the Burnie office during February.

Presently the committee are busy organizing an Easter Morning tea 10.30am for March 19th foster and kinship carers are welcome it will be held at Ulverstone Civic center, “Isandula room”

Also during the June school holidays the committee are planning a day out for the children. This will be a day at the movies and BBQ.

All information will be sent to all carers pryor to the event with dates and times.

Clothing Pool

Now up and running at the Burnie Office

**Ideal for the emergency placement
From Birth to 12 yrs.**

I am writing on behalf of the Out of Home Care Team to inform carers of the new structure as a result of KPMG recommendations. As you are aware the KPMG review process started last year and the recommendations have begun rolling out. As a result your new team, from 11 March 2008, will consist of three full-time workers Cheryl DeBeer, Georgina Hessay and Danielle Norton and two part-time workers Tana McMullen and Janet Boland. Sue Howard will be acting in the role of coordinator until the position can be filled.

Those leaving the team, Perin, Mel, Robyn and Lisa wish to thank carers for their support and wish them well in their future fostering endeavours.

Regards

**Perin Sushames
Child Protection Worker
Child Protection Services - 6434 6246**

The individual has always had to struggle to keep from being overwhelmed by the tribe. If you try it, you will be lonely often, and sometimes frightened. But no price is too high to pay for the privilege of owning yourself.

Friedrich Nietzsche

KPMG

As you may be aware KPMG have been conducting a review during the last 12 months to develop a new framework for child protection. That process is now completed with recommendations to bring about changes to the delivery of Child Protection Services. The report is far too extensive to place in this Newsletter . These are recommendations that will see changes that are relevant to OoHC.

THE NEW OUT OF HOME CARE SERVICE SYSTEM

- An increased range of placement options will be available
- **DHHS will have clear responsibilities for:**
 - strategic planning
 - contracting
 - performance management and quality control
- **Out of Home care service providers will be responsible for:**
 - delivering services to specifications and under contract
 - recruitment and training of carers.

Placement coordination

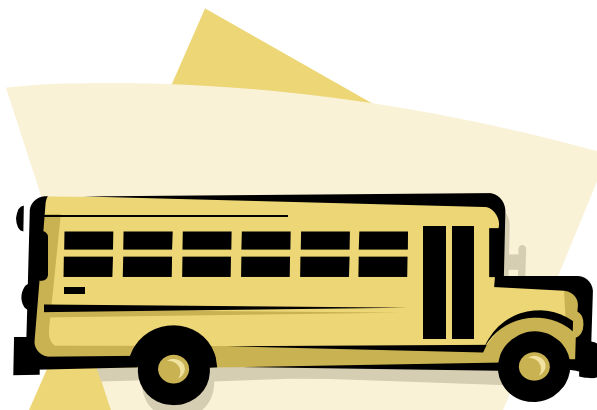
- Placements will be supported by a regionally based Placement Coordination function
- Carer register and placement database will be maintained
- Children and young person will be matched to care/placement type based on decision matrix
- Strong communication between Child Protection, OoHC service providers and Placement Coordination function
- Placement coordination function will participate in forward planning, resolving placement breakdowns

Practice approach

- A **“care manager”** (OoHC staff member) will be responsible for care planning and management and will be involved in case planning
- Case planning will be conducted by Child Protection with involvement of care manager
- Case management responsibility can be passed to OoHC program when a child or young person is stable
- An integrated care team will be involved in delivering care
- The carer(s), child, young person and family (where appropriate) have a role to play in care planning

FOSTER CARERS ASSOCIATION TASMANIA & GREATER FOSTER CARERS ASSOCIATION TASMANIA & GREATER

FOSTER CARERS BIG DAY OUT



**FREE TRANSPORT AVAILABLE
FROM ALL REGIONS BUT MUST
BE PREBOOKED**

*Pick up points will be given at time of
booking*

*COME TO PERTH
ON SUNDAY
30TH. MARCH 2008
AND ENJOY A FUN DAY
OUT WITH CARERS AND
THEIR FAMILIES FROM
EVERY PART OF
TASMANIA*

- CARER AWARDS
- MONSTER BAR-B-Q
- HIGHLIGHTS
- CHOCOLATE WHEEL
- LUCKY PRIZES
- TREASURE HUNT
- JUMPING CASTLE
- MANY OTHER ACTIVITIES
- DISPLAYS

**INVITE YOU TO JOIN US AT THE
PERTH SPORTS OVAL ON SUNDAY 30TH. MARCH 2008**

FREE TRANSPORT AVAILABLE FROM ALL REGIONS BUT MUST BE PREBOOKED

CONTACT LINDA WAGNER 0362 498 910 MOBILE 0438 888 384

R.S.V.P. NO LATER THAN 21ST MARCH 2008 TIME: 11.00AM TILL 2.00PM

FOSTER CARERS MEMBERSHIP FORM 20...

(Mr. Mrs. Ms.) Name: _____

Address: _____

_____P/Code.....

Foster Carer [] **Kinship Carer** [] **Associate Member** []

Associate members have no entitlement to vote or serve on the committee, however can support and pass on knowledge and skills and work alongside committee members.

Hobart [] Launceston [] NorthWest [] please tick box **Date:...**/.../....

Couple \$6.00 [] Single \$5.00 [] please tick box

Signed _____ please forward monies to regional treasurers,

Hobart P.O. Box 17, Snug, North: _____ TBA _____
NorthWest: P.O. Box 610, Wynyard.

A receipt will be given and a membership card will be forwarded on to members.

Carers are asked to pay memberships at or prior to Annual A.G.M. All applicants must be 18 years of age.

ASSOCIATE ORGANISATIONS

Name Of Organisation: _____

Name of contact person: _____

Address: _____P/Code.....

Membership Fee: \$60.00 please forward to State Treasurer
P.O. Box 610
Wynyard 7325

Associate organizations have only one voting right per organization and in the best interest of organization please forward name of spokesperson. Any business to be addressed at state meetings need to be posted to Secretary at the above post box prior meeting in order that it can be added to agenda.