



NEWS LETTER

Foster Carer's Association Tasmania (Inc.)



December 2008 ISSUE 4

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the last newsletter for 2008. As you know this has been an extremely stressful year as Foster Carer numbers decline for various reasons coupled with the continued rise in numbers of those coming into care and in particular the amount of sibling groups that need our support. This leads to higher numbers of children being placed in individual homes and again more stress on you as Foster Care'rs and on OOHc and CPW's striving to support you and to meet the needs of the child.

The role of this Association is also to support and advise you at all times and certainly we receive requests every day seeking advice from FAST delegates. As FAST was funded and is recognized by DHHS you as Foster Carer's are not breaching confidentiality by contacting us and we encourage you to continue to do so. A problem shared is a problem halved.

Thanks to funding from DHHS we are able to offer specialized training to Foster Carer's in Stress and Trauma and also Sexual Abuse of those that come into care. The Stress and Trauma sessions have been well received with 44 Carer's, Kinship Carer's, Grand Parents and representatives from the N.G.O. sector attending. Registrations for the Sexual Abuse sessions to be held in February are welcome and forms are included in this newsletter.

By the time you receive this newsletter all regions will have held Christmas parties and advice is that numbers of children attending has increased this year and to the all the organizers from all Carer's "thanks for all your efforts ensuring the success of these parties"

I was fortunate in being able to attend the TasCOSS "Fairer Futures" Conference and certainly it was time well spent with very positive comments from the Minister for Human Services, Lin Thorpe and excellent workshops, from the Foster Carer's point of view, including topics on Education being socially inclusive and supporting those with additional needs. Overcoming barriers to employment with Claremont College explaining a very active and successful programme. Finally I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year and thank you for supporting each other throughout the year. Thanks to all the Committee Members for their support and for freely giving their time and also thank you to all in C&FS for supporting Carers and those in Care

Hope to see you all at the "THE BIG DAY OUT" in March 2009

Ken



Australian Foster Care Conference

27-29 March 2009, Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle WA

An exciting and informative **Conference Programme** of speakers and presentations are now almost in place. **Keynotes** include **Donna Meehan**, an Aboriginal liaison officer and Indigenous separated child who was fostered and later adopted by a white family. She speaks about life with her foster family and her autobiography 'It is no secret'; and **Larry Brendtro** who will speak about *RESPONSE ABILITY PATHWAYS (RAP): A MODEL for RECLAIMING YOUTH AT RISK*.

The WA Commissioner for Children, **Michelle Scott** has been invited to contribute her ideas and experiences to the Programme and **Howard Bath** who is also the new NT Commissioner for Children will present on attachment and child protection issues. A large number of presenters are offering workshops that are practical and interesting. The Conference will be a very relevant and valuable professional development event for foster carers and support staff from WA and around Australia.

A full **Conference website** is about to be launched that will provide ongoing updated information about the Conference speakers, workshop sessions, Conference dinner, how to register and for WA delegates Conference subsidies to travel to and attend the Conference. Go to www.fostercareconference.com to find out more. While there join up to the email list so you can receive the e-news Conference updates.

Continuous Long Service Awards will be presented at the Conference Dinner. If you have been a foster carer for 10 years plus then contact Cindy Gorton at cindy@fostercareconference.com to obtain a nomination form. These Awards recognise the long term dedication and commitment of you as foster carers to our vulnerable children from around Australia.

A Children and Young People's Programme has been planned to run alongside the main Conference on Saturday and Sunday so that you can participate in the Conference while the children in your care enjoy fun, safe and interactive activities.

“you ^{raise}
^ me up”

Australian Foster Care Conference

27-29 March 2009, Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle WA

Contact us about anything you think might create a more inspiring and exciting Conference for you and your colleagues to participate in at cindy@fostercareconference.com and neil@fostercareconference.com.

We are also really keen to keep each of you informed about the Conference so if you don't have access to a website and email then please contact either **Cindy Gorton** on 0417 789 162 or **Neil Carver Smith** on 9339 0039, from the Conference secretariat, and we can mail you a hard copy of any of the email updates we send out.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE DAY

BIG DAY OUT

Following Last years successful event we have been fortunate in being granted ongoing funding from C&FS to ensure that this now becomes an annual recognition day for Tasmanian Foster and Kinship Carers.

Using The Information on the attached flyer please register as soon as possible particularly if you require transport to and from the venue.

Please remember that all your children are welcome not just those in care.

If you need help regarding access visits etc. on this day please contact the child's worker and your OoHC support person.

North West News

Final Coffee Morning for the year

Will be in Isandula Rooms, Civic Centre
Ulverstone November 26th. 10.30am All
Welcome.

**Children's Christmas Party BBQ. "
Otto's Grotto "**

Ulverstone Dec. 7th. 12.30 -2.30

Have you registered??

Next Years Meetings will commence

Monday 16th February in Ulverstone 2009



*Season's Greet-
ings*

*May this
Christmas be a
time of fun and
sharing ...*



Northern News

Children's Christmas Party November 30th.

Will be held at the Ho Ho Hut Launceston

All Welcome.

Hobart Happenings

Coffee mornings in carer's homes are an opportunity to have a chat and meet new friends, Contact John or Cathy for more information of the next coffee morning in your area. Children's Christmas Party Dec. 7th.

Foster Carers Association Tasmania (Inc.)

Meeting Dates for 2008/9

September 27th 2008

October 18th 2008

November 22nd 2008 Regional Meeting North

February 21st 2009 Regional Meeting Hobart

March 15th 2009

April 18th 2009

May 16th 2009

June 20th 2009 Regional Meeting N/West

July 18th 2009

August 2009 State Conference

All Carer's are welcome to attend meetings. No child care at monthly meetings

Regional meetings are for carer's opportunity to meet and chat over coffee.
Contact your area President if you are able to attend. **Child care is provided**

John Flack Southern President
John Flanagan Northern President
Maggie Phillips N/West Vice President

Don't forget Clothing Pools are up and running in all areas...for those emergency placements good clean clothes are available no cost

Contacts: Executive committee

Ken	President	0406 006876
June	Vice president	
John Flack	Jnr. V/President	
John Flanagan	Treasurer	0407 918832
Maggie	Secretary	0400 876907
Terry Flanigan	Public Officer	

FAST DELEGATES

Kate Huxtable	N/West	Sheila Abery	South
John Flanagan	North	Cathy Lanyon	South
Maggie Phillips	N/West		

FCAT Office Address's.

Southern Office,
McDougal House,
Hobart
P.O. Box 17 Snug

Office N/West
Suite 2 Osbourne House
Wilmot St. Burnie
P.O. Box 610
Wynyard 7325

Northern Office
ROAB Hall
11 Birch Ave.
Newstead

Email Address:

Web site www.fcatas.org.au/
president@fcatas.org.au
secretary@fcatas.org.au
treasurer@fcatas.org.au

WHAT HAPPENS IN AN EMERGENCY

Ever wondered what to do if an emergency happens while caring for foster children, especially if you have more than one child in your care, and you are by yourself.

Assess the situation, call for an ambulance...the paramedics are there to assess and make decisions that is in the best interest of the child.

If Paramedics make decision the child needs to go to the hospital.

Contact C&FS and speak with case manager where possible or duty officer. Let them know the situation.

After hours contact number 1800 001 219

AUSTRALIAN CHILDHOOD FOUNDATION WORKSHOPS/SEMINAR

The two day sessions around the state finished on Nov.7th. At the Olde Tudor Inn, Prospect. The third session will commence in Ulverstone March3rd. 2009, Launceston March 4th.2009, Hobart March 6th. 2009.

Feedback from those who have attended these workshops to date has been very positive...with all carer's gaining a real insight of the effects of trauma and abuse on young people. The information presented was relevant and up to date.

Sexual Assault workshops will commence in Ulverstone next year. If you have not already registered, some places still available in your area. Please contact Ken with your details 0437006876

Carer's who have registered will be sent a letter next year as a reminder with Venue, times and dates.