

PERMANENT CARE AND ADOPTIVE FAMILIES



**Permanent
Care and
Adoptive
Families**



Annual Report
2019

THANKS AND GRATITUDE

To the many individuals and organisations who have contributed and supported Permanent Care and Adoptive Families this year, thank you for giving, sharing and caring:

The ACT Group	International Social Service	Regina Hill
Adopt Change	Australia	Ra Chapman
Alan James – Mindfulness in Motion	Jai Wambeek	Sara Wise
Anglicare Victoria	Jeanette Hanley-Heath	Sheradon Carrol
Bendigo Bank	Jenny Conrick	Sidney Myer Fund
Bernadette O’Brien	Kate Vandestadt	Susan Catherall
Berry Street Victoria	Kathryn Tatti	St Luke’s Anglicare (Bendigo)
Berry Street Shepparton	Kaisey Hayes	Tara Gooding
Bethany Family Service (Geelong)	Kildonnan Family Services	Tracey Greenwold
Brophy Family and Youth Services (Warrnambool)	Kirsty Allan	Uniting Connections
Cas O’Neill	Kinship Carers Victoria	Vanish
CentaCare	Len Sylvester	Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency Co-operative Limited
Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare Inc.	Liana Buchanan	Vin
Child & Family Service (Ballarat)	Lifeworks	William Jackson
Chris Cook	Linda Cooke	The William Buckland Foundation
CREATE Foundation	Louise Moore	Wiremu Hewitt
Diana Casey	Lynne Clarkson	The Department of Health and Human Services, in particular:
Foster Care Association Victoria	MacKillop Family Services	Argiri Alisandratos, Mary Roberts, Mick Naughton, Pascale Dreyer, Emma Gilbert and Nicola Young
Fostering Connections	Maree Frilay	Family Information Networks & Discovery (FIND)
Grandparents Victoria	Margaret Kay	Inter-Country Adoption Victoria
Guy Rhynsburger – Mindfulness in Motion	Mary Natoli	
Helen MacPherson Smith Trust	Matana Foundation	
	Megan Sloley	
	Mia Barone	
	Mirabel Foundation	
	Matthew Reader	
	Natalie Elliot	
	OzChild	
	Prue Walker	
	R E Ross Trust	

MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRON

Emeritus Professor Dorothy Scott Am



There is an old African proverb that says –

“If you want to go fast, go alone.
If you want to go far, go together.”

Permanent Care and Adoptive Families has come a long, long way from its beginnings sixteen years ago, and that achievement is due to the collective effort of people coming together in a deep commitment to a common cause. And the very act of coming together has created a community, nurturing a sense of belonging and of being part of something larger than ourselves. Recent research in the field of positive psychology tells us that this is vital to the wellbeing of adults and children alike, but I think humans may have known that for a long time. Our species has survived because of our capacity for co-operation.

There is another African proverb with which we are more familiar –

“It takes a village to raise a child.”

Today, more than ever before, we need to ask the question “And what might it take to rebuild the village?” I think Permanent Care and Adoptive Families (PCA Families) have shown us how this can be done.

Emeritus Professor Dorothy Scott AM
Patron, Permanent Care and Adoptive Families

PERMANENT CARE AND ADOPTIVE FAMILIES STAFF

Brenda Carmen Chief Executive Officer	Liz Powell Advocacy and Support Advisor	Anne Flynn Volunteer Support Officer
Deborah Hunt Member Support and Development Officer	Danielle Lucas Advocacy and Support Advisor	Gina Signorello Flexi-funding Administration
Alannah Andrews Team Leader Flexible Funding	Vicki Coverdale Advocacy and Support Advisor	Lyn Halliday Administrative Assistance (casual)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



In 2003 when my daughter became part of our family through permanent care there were 167 of these orders made in the State of Victoria by the Children's Court. In the year ending 2017 there were 485 permanent care orders (PCOs) made. Well over 3000 children and young people are on current PCOs. The rising number of children in out of home care for significant lengths of time means it is likely that these numbers will only continue to rise.

It is increasingly important then that the families who open their hearts and homes to these children and young people, are well supported. This is vital to ensure stability for the very many children for whom family reunification is not possible.

Strong support is also vital to ensuring families continue to be willing to put their hands up to provide this stability. While the international evidence is that stable care models like permanent care and adoption have positive outcomes for the families and the young people in their care, there is no getting away from the fact that there can be significant challenges along the way. Though a stable family makes a huge difference, trauma and disadvantage is not simply erased with a court order.

We are grateful to our State Government and the Department of Health and Human Services policy makers for recognising the need for ongoing support in the case of permanent care at least, if not adoption – still seen as largely a national matter. We are grateful too that they have recognised the importance of an independent third party and of the lived experience PCA Families brings to the design and delivery of that support.

PCA Families achieved dedicated government funding for the telephone Helpline in 2017. We know from the many calls received by the Helpline this

year what an immense difference it makes. Similarly, we know from the peer support we have been able to deliver in the field with funding from the William Buckland Foundation how valued this support is, reflected in increasing membership in outer regional and rural areas.

We have not only seen a trend steadily upwards in the calls for support to the Helpline. We also see it in the need for funds distributed through the flexible funding – a program delivered in partnership with OzChild and with the sector through the flexible funding Alliance. In 2016–17 we distributed \$1.09 million in flexible funding across 460 packages. In the 2018–19 financial year the amount distributed totalled \$2.6 million across nearly 1500 packages. All told over these three years we have distributed close to 3000 packages of support. Importantly, over 10% is distributed to families caring for Aboriginal children.

We are aware that there is more to be done. All eligible families need to be aware of these avenues of non-judgemental advice, information and peer support. It is also critical that the flexible funding continues to be funded at a level that will ensure families have access to all the myriad things young people need, from sports uniforms to dental care to therapy, respite care and educational support.

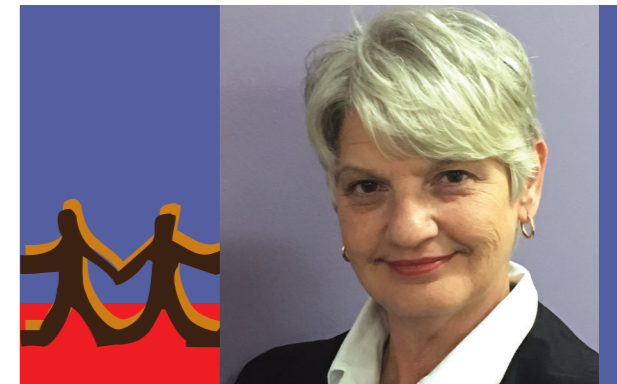
In addition, PCA Families strongly advocates that adequate support for children and young people to at least age 21 needs to be available to all families who take on the care of children and young people who are not able to live with their birth parents. In the Home Stretch to adulthood, there is no basis for a distinction to be made in the need for support between young people in foster care, kinship care, permanent care or adoption.

In addition to our friends on both sides of the political divide, and in the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Justice and Community Safety I'd like to close by thanking our many other partners – the philanthropic trusts, our volunteers including our long-serving Journal Club coordinators, my fellow board members, and of course our wonderful team of staff and consultants led by our indefatigable CEO Brenda Carmen. Your efforts have been vital to the work of PCA Families and are sincerely appreciated.

Meredith Carter

President,
Permanent Care and Adoptive Families

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



It has been a big year for PCA Families with wonderful achievements. Our Permanent Carer Helpline has seen a massive increase in contact from carers and parents with 2,679 Helpline calls received and 452 cases of advocacy undertaken.

We also distributed \$2.6 million in flexible funding to meet the needs of children living in permanent care and special needs adoption. This year we have been successful in obtaining an additional \$2 million in flexible funding from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) for 2019–20, and enough funding to update our old data system for improved efficiency and data collection.

PCA Families continues to be the only service that provides outreach peer support for local adoptive parents or permanent carers in the State of Victoria. Our Journal Club in Collingwood will be celebrating 10 years in the running with an estimated 1,300 attendees since 2009.

Our peer support project via The William Buckland Foundation grant for 2016–19 has enabled PCA Families to reach communities across Victoria. The project – 'Keeping Families Together: Supporting children and their families joined through permanent care and adoption in regional Victoria' has been hugely successful. Over the life of the project, we achieved 59 outreach visits to country and regional Victoria, supporting 412 parents, carers, and their children face to face; and 530 beneficiaries to the overall project. This important work has assisted PCA Families' capacity to advocate and lobby for important system changes based on the lived experience of our members.

Late last year, the Victorian Government commenced policy work to develop a Carer Strategy in relation to foster, kinship and permanent carers. The Roadmap Implementation Ministerial Advisory Group formed a Carer Strategy Working Group (CSWG) to work on the strategy and PCA Families were delighted to be invited. We are represented on the group by me, Dan Barron (Permanent Carer Representative), Donna Coelho (Permanent Carer Representative) and Alannah Andrews, our team leader.

The aim of the Carer Strategy is to develop a shared vision for carers, with outcomes and aspirations, combined with clear actions for achieving these outcomes. In our CSWG meetings, we have stressed the importance of peer support, information technology, Helpline, and respite for permanent carers. We have also pushed for permanent carers

to have equal access to training, as this has been raised as an important issue by our members.

DHHS has appointed a research team from the Universities of Melbourne, Sydney and New South Wales, to undertake the Permanency Amendments Longitudinal Study (PALS). PALS is a two year project that will identify the changes that occurred following legislative amendments to the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* and the impact of these changes on children, parents and carers in the child protection system.

As a member of the PALS Working Group, we have been able to highlight important issues raised by our parents and carers in relation to the legal and practical implications of these changes since the permanency amendments. These include contact arrangements with extended families and the need for care plans to be legislated in the best interests of children. We have also provided our members an opportunity to be interviewed as part of the study.

The opinions of all our members are important to us, and it was wonderful to receive over 300 responses to our Member Survey. From this, we are able to ascertain the important issues and services needed by our families to support their children and young people.

We are very grateful for our dedicated Board, small staff team, and volunteers. To all our families, thank you so much for supporting us at Permanent Care and Adoptive Families.

Brenda Carmen
Chief Executive Officer,
Permanent Care and Adoptive Families

INFORMATION, ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT SERVICES



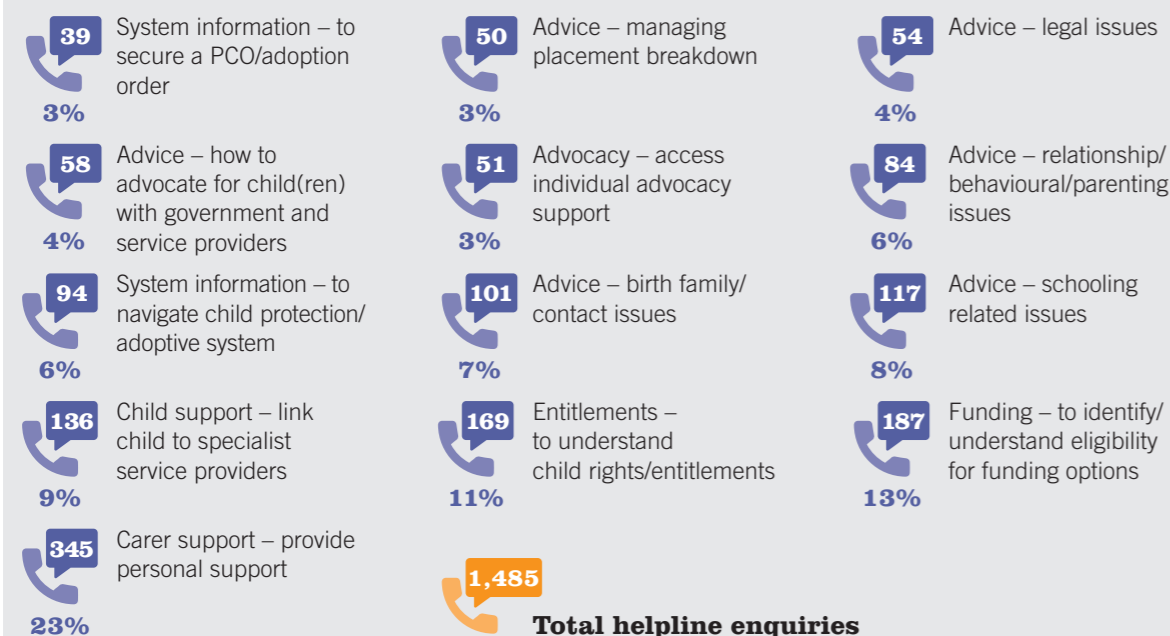
PERMANENT CARER HELPLINE

The dedicated Permanent Carer Helpline started in 2017 with the goal of supporting families, providing information and linking children into required services. The need for individual advocacy was clear from the outset, and PCA Families responded in kind. Advocacy may be required with DHHS, schools, community organisations and service providers. Strong bonds develop between families and PCA Families, and follow up support may be required. It is through this work PCA Families has raised awareness amongst professionals of the work we do. This has led to a collaborative approach to problem solving and the sharing of knowledge and resources.

Carers have benefitted from support and information around the process of gaining permanent care under PCO and the importance of a comprehensive Case Plan. Carers also seek clarification around obtaining birth certificates, passports, child care assistance, health care cards and applying to increase their carer allowance. PCA Families' staff advise carers of the process and assist if results are not forthcoming.

Families have called our Helpline requesting support as they apply for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Staff have linked families in with support agencies and become skilled up in the

Breakdown of helpline enquiries provided for 2018–19 financial year



basics of NDIS. Children with a trauma history often require additional supports, and Helpline staff provide ongoing guidance as families engage in this system. Families report feeling empowered and better able to ensure the ongoing success and happiness of their child. Carers are the 'expert' on their child/young person and often best positioned to advocate on behalf of the young person. Helpline staff walk alongside families as they navigate their way through this sometimes complex system.

The Helpline staff take calls across a diverse range of issues. Everything from relationship issues (parent/child, biological family/child, school relationships) to health issues (physical or emotional – child, carer, extended family). The Helpline is not a crisis service but carers may call in when feeling overwhelmed by a situation. PCA Families staff assists carers to find solutions and advocate on their behalf. Respite has frequently been required and housing pressures have also been of great concern. The Helpline staff will assist carers in identifying the family needs and make an internal referral for flexible funding if appropriate.

FLEXIBLE FUNDING PROGRAM

The flexible funding for existing permanent care placements program provides funds to support carers and children on Permanent Care Orders as well as children subject to a Family Law Court Order or a Special Needs Adoption.

This service is led by PCA Families and OzChild, with oversight from the Permanent Care (PC) Alliance. The PC Alliance is made up of representatives from the Foster Care Association of Victoria, Kinship Carers Victoria, Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agencies, Mirabel Foundation, CREATE, OzChild and PCA Families. We are also supported by our consumer group of permanent carers from around Victoria called Consult 8.

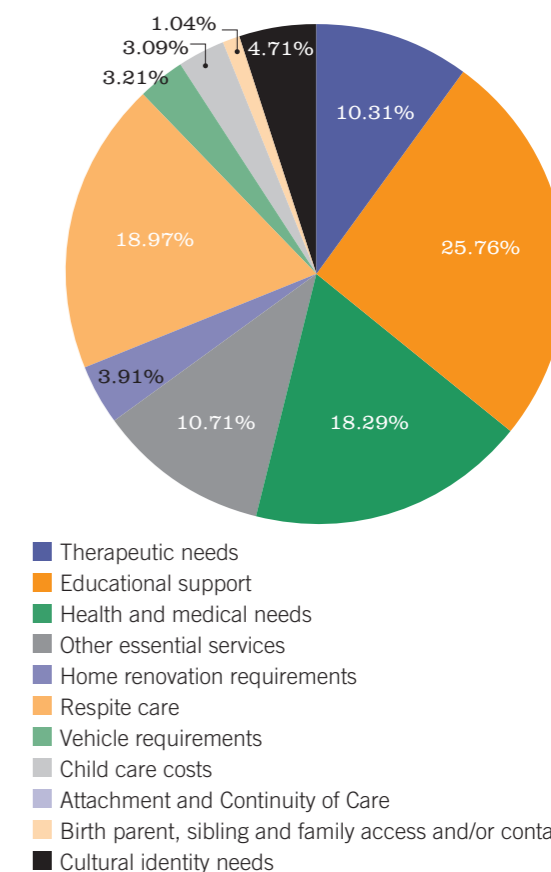
This year we received 1,473 Total Applications (including 38 rejected applications) and dispersed \$2,591,970 to families.

The majority of funding was expended in three main areas:

- Therapeutic needs
- Educational needs
- Health and medical needs

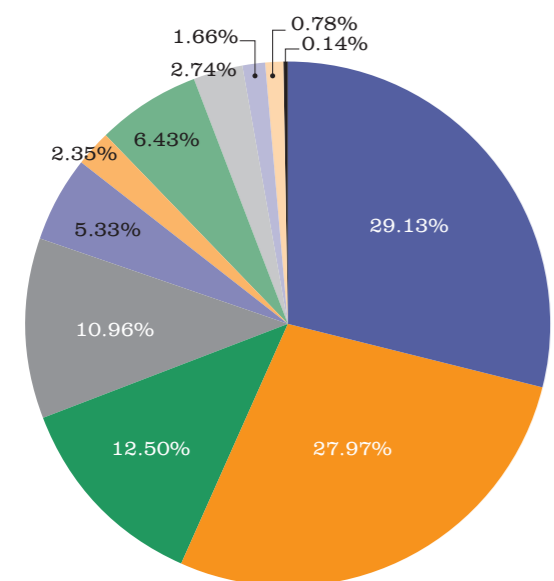
11% of flexible funding is set aside for Aboriginal children raised in Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal families. This year our spending reached 10.62% of total funding. The top three priorities accounting for 63.02% of the funding for Aboriginal children were Educational support (25.76%), Respite Care (18.97%), and Health and Medical needs (18.29%).

Aboriginal – percentage of spend by category



In comparison, the priority spending for non-Aboriginal children were Therapeutic Needs (29.13%), Educational Support (27.97%) and Health and Medical Needs (12.5%), accounting for 69.61% of the funding allocated to children and young people.

Non-Aboriginal – percentage of spend by category



- Therapeutic needs
- Educational support
- Health and medical needs
- Other essential services
- Home renovation requirements
- Respite care
- Vehicle requirements
- Child care costs
- Attachment and Continuity of Care
- Birth parent, sibling and family access and/or contact
- Cultural identity needs

The PC Alliance, Consult8 and our Board have been working to improve our procedures and documentation for flexible funding in readiness for a mail out to every permanent carer in the State of Victoria. As we expect an increase in demand for these funds, we were delighted to receive an additional \$2 million in flexible funding from Minister Luke Donnellan, Minister for Child Protection and Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers.

We would like to thank our partner OzChild, Emma Gilbert and Mary Roberts at DHHS, the Permanent Care Alliance, and our wonderful parents and carers on the Consult8 group for their contribution to this essential service.

OUTREACH AND PEER SUPPORT

The funding provided by The William Buckland Foundation has enabled PCA Families to implement the 'Keeping Families Together' project with the aim of having a sustainable positive impact on regional and country adoptive and permanent care communities. It has also assisted in continuing our community development work in Ballarat, Bendigo, and Warrnambool; and in developing our presence in Swan Hill, Mildura, Echuca, and Albury/Wodonga.

This has enabled face to face support whilst establishing and consolidating connections with regional agencies, building the foundations for further development of collaborative working relationships to support families.

Over the life of the project, we achieved 59 outreach visits to country and regional Victoria, supporting 412 parents, carers, and their children face to face; and achieving 530 beneficiaries to the overall project.

Informal discussions during peer support often centre on schooling, trauma behaviours and linking to local and general resources, together with being able to link to flexible funding support. Carers and parents identify this as invaluable in enabling them to feel connected and valued by the organisation, together with the added bonus of becoming linked to others in the area for regular ongoing connection.

The benefits and need for outreach services can be seen with regional areas making up 55.1% of new members in 2018–19.



- Places visited by Outreach and Peer Support
- Places visited by Community Outreach

JOURNAL CLUB

Journal Club is a peer support program for adoptive parents and permanent care families. Journal Club meets on a monthly basis to discuss articles about family and community life. This program provides a safe and confidential space for members to form supportive connections with each other.

Established in 2009, there have been an estimated 1,300 attendances at Journal Club over the last 10 years with group sizes varying from 5 to 25 participants for each session. In 2018–19 there were 131 attendances (from permanent care parents, foster care parents, local adoptive parents, kinship carers and intercountry adoptive parents). Smaller group sizes, as well as the larger groups, play a unique and valuable role in providing support for our members.

We currently have three volunteer facilitators for Journal Club, and this year the facilitators have introduced additional guest speakers to the Journal Club program. This model of peer support enables participants to explore various aspects of service delivery, whilst advocating for their children and young people. Special thanks to Mary Natoli, Cas O'Neil and Chris Cook for their excellent facilitation of Journal Club over the years.

A number of participants travel from regional Victoria to attend Journal Club in the evening. Consequently in 2019–20 PCA Families will explore the possibility of delivering a similar model of peer support in regional Victoria.

PCA FAMILIES MEMBER CONSULTATION SURVEY

A special 'thank you' to all our members who responded to the Member Consultation Survey – 302 parents and carers provided their feedback, of which:

- 66.8% were permanent carers
- 12.6% were intercountry
- 5.6% were local adoption
- The remaining membership responses were from the broader out-of-home care community.

Carer and parent responses to the survey highlighted what services are valued and helpful, the broader gaps in service provision and areas for improvement.

Services currently valued by parents and carers within the community are:

1. Peer support
2. Education and training workshops
3. Helpline support.

The training/workshop topic areas of interest were the impact of trauma on behaviour and development, caring for adolescents and identity. It was also recognised that current training/workshops and peer support were mainly provided in Melbourne's CBD. Many rural carers and parents, while interested in attending, found location an issue. Suggestions provided by respondents included running sessions in outer regions, webinars/podcasts and the possibility of online training or peer group support via social media platforms.

Challenges experienced by carers and parents ranged from the loss of case management support once a PCO is granted (families experiencing the burden of liaising with Government authorities and finding and accessing suitable services), reduced support and services for families of Intercountry and Local Adoption children, and how to support and advocate for your child within the education system. Additionally, respite and the opportunity for holidays and camps for children and families was a strong need recognised in survey responses.

Specific to PCA Families, respondents would like more clarity around the scope of services offered by the Helpline and the application process for flexible funding. Many permanent carers appreciated how the flexible funding has made a significant contribution to the support they are now able to provide their children. Numerous respondents provided positive feedback regarding the services offered by PCA Families and suggested we:

"Keep on doing, what you're doing."

"Stay the positive and informative service you already are."

"Just doing what they are doing now, offering support where they can and going out of their way to make sure [I] feel supported."

CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAMS

Mindfulness in Motion Kids Program

A message from Guy Rhynsburger – Principal Instructor:

I have had the pleasure of running the martial arts sessions at Mindfulness in Motion since March of 2017. Over this time I have watched a number of young people grow and begin to flourish through the program.

While the program is based on martial arts, it goes far beyond being just martial arts. Students are learning resilience, decision making, goal setting and boundaries amongst many other things, in a fun interactive environment in which they feel safe and secure. Looking through the current and past participants' evaluations and what they take from the program is enough for me. Here are some extracts written by young people from the most recent program:

“Keep calm ... don't let your mind wander.”

“It's ok to make mistakes and just be yourself.”

“Concentration – never give up ... as long as I tried.”

“To focus a little longer each time.”

“Staying focused – I learnt not to be distracted and not to laugh if someone does a fart in class.”

“When I get angry I do my breathing and try to distract myself from being angry.”

Thank you to all the staff at PCA Families for supporting this program.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Life Story Work

PCA Families were able to deliver a number of Life Story Work training sessions for carers, parents and professionals in Melbourne's CBD and Geelong. The training package was recently reviewed and updated to include a range of resources and hands-on activities for participants to keep and access when needed, as they support their children to understand and make sense of their unique story.

“Useful tools to talk about 'difficult' topics.”

“I found the sessions more hands on than expected which was really useful in terms of tackling issues.”

“Fantastic help and introduction to Life Stories from a therapeutic perspective.”

“Game playing was really a useful tool to discuss difficult emotions.”



Children enjoying Mindfulness in Motion Program

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

PCA Families was founded by volunteers, and has a strong commitment to developing, delivering and supporting the Volunteer Program.

Our volunteer program continues to invite initiatives from members for programs, and offers a number of pathways for members to build on their personal experience of adoption and home based care to support young people and children who are no longer living with their biological parents. Currently, there are three major pathways available for members to provide support through our volunteer program – administrative support, and facilitating or assisting in the delivery of youth programs, and peer support for parents and carers such as the Journal Club.

Administrative support

With the introduction of the flexible fund initiative for permanent care families, the demand on our services has grown substantially. The administration of the flexible funding requires in depth knowledge and understanding of services available to support permanent care families. The availability and level of access to these services is constantly evolving and requires regular updates. This year our volunteers assisted with the development of a data base of professional and community services which our members access.

Youth programs

The Tree of Life Program offers children and young people, who are no longer living with their biological parents, opportunities to participate in activities together. PCA Families provided training to volunteers with lived experience of adoption and home based care to facilitate and assist with the program. The organisation has a pool of volunteers to draw from when delivering the two day program which was provided in a number of regional areas in Victoria, this year.

Thank you

We wish to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers for the magnificent contribution they have made to our organisation and membership. Special thanks to Mary Natoli, Cas O'Neil and Chris Cook for their excellent facilitation of Journal Club, and Tara and Jai for their wonderful work with the Tree of Life program, as well as Vin for the long hours he has contributed to consultations and our data base of services.



Equine Therapy – one of the popular therapies that flexible funding covers

BOARD MEMBERS

Our Board is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the organisation and ensuring it continues to deliver services of a high standard and in a sustainable manner.

Meredith Carter – President

Meredith Carter brings to PCA Families her lived experience of fostering and permanent care. Meredith is also a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and has held many leadership roles, including as a CEO of two not for profit organisations over 13 years and serving on a number of statutory tribunals and boards, including as Chair. Now a consultant, her social policy expertise is underpinned by her breadth of experience in the public and not for profit sectors, in law reform and in governance, with a strong commitment to community participation.

Donna Coelho – Vice President

Donna is an adult adoptee and mother to a permanent care daughter. Donna has been a stay at home mother since 2010 and is on the Parish Education Board. She has a background in Administration, Customer Service and Supervisory roles across a number of sectors. Donna brings her lived experience and knowledge as an adoptee and permanent care parent to the PCA Families Board which she joined in 2016.

Roslyn Rule – Treasurer

Roslyn is a well-rounded finance executive with broad experience including management, strategic advice, reporting, governance and systems. She has forged her career working in both big and niche businesses and understands nuances and drivers for organisations of different magnitudes and in different stages of development. Roslyn is motivated to give back to the community and offers her diverse finance and leadership experience to the PCA Families Board.

Chris Lockwood – Secretary

Chris Lockwood has over 20 years’ experience working across the Mental Health, Construction and Finance sectors. With specific knowledge of mental health, safety and suicide prevention in the construction industry, and expertise in managing strategic growth, sustainable funding and partnership development. Chris is currently the National CEO of MATES in Construction, the leader in suicide prevention in workplaces and across industry in Australia, as well as being the proud father of two children adopted from China and Korea.

Dan Barron – Director

Dan Barron is a father of three children. For several years he was a full time ‘stay home dad’ with two of his children, who both joined the family via permanent care. His work experience includes many support and care work positions in the fields of physical disability, intellectual disability, mental illness and young care-leavers, in Australia and in the UK. He came to Australia in 1995, and currently works both as a case manager in a homelessness support service, and as a cook, quizmaster and ‘fitness instructor’ in an over-55s social support group.

John Loke – Director

John Loke has over 30 years’ experience across the construction, engineering, retail and manufacturing sectors. With his comprehensive finance and commercial acumen, John contributes to the business strategy and operational performance. He does this by optimising the synergies across different working groups. Since graduating (2001) as a Williamson Community Leader, he has been making time to give back to the community.

Jennifer Botha – Director

Jennifer brings 13 years of global finance, accounting, and operational experiences to PCA Families and is currently leading a global financial management entity, ensuring strong financial stewardship and corporate governance. Jennifer developed financial and operational reporting systems, unified regionally dispersed finance teams, and drove agility through effective financial strategies, optimization of resources and operational excellence.

Alba Chliakhtine – Director

Alba was born in Brazil and has been calling Australia home since 1988. Alba’s professional career spans over 30 years in the supply chain and business strategy in both the private and government sectors. In 2002 she commenced her voluntary work in the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) sector by supporting the establishment of the ABRISA-Brazilian Association in Melbourne. In 2010 Alba extended her volunteering capacity by joining the Victorian Immigrant and Refugees Women’s Coalition (VIRWC) in a Directorship capacity. Alba is a Board member of the Ross House Association and a graduate and member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Alba commenced her family journey in Brazil by adopting two children.

TREASURER’S REPORT 2019

PCA Families is pleased to have seen further growth in our services over the last financial year. Both the Helpline and flexible funding services have increased compared to last year and the regional peer support programs were very successful. As noted elsewhere in this report in 2018–19, PCA Families distributed \$2.6 million across nearly 1500 flexible funding packages. We are grateful to DHHS and the William Buckland Trust for funding these programs in the 2018–19 year.

In addition, we successfully advocated for funding from DHHS to implement a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. This is proving to be very effective in helping to manage our families’ needs and identify the areas that require specific assistance.

PCA Families will be able to increase the number of staff to ensure that families receive much needed support. Unfortunately, Peer Support is not currently funded for this year, however the fundraising committee is busy trying to secure the funds required to run that and to develop and implement other programs.

On a personal note, I have enjoyed my first year as Treasurer at PCA Families and would like to express my appreciation to the staff who are caring and

dedicated individuals working to deliver services to enhance the lives of families with adopted children and children in permanent care. It is a privilege to work with the Board members who volunteer their time to support children and families with a wide variety of needs.

Looking forward PCA Families are in a steady financial state for the next 12 months and beyond. DHHS Helpline funding is ongoing for the 2019–20 year, as is the flexible funding with a total of \$3 million funding to be released in 2019–20 to ensure we can continue to support families at least at the level we have this year. We see the future for sustained services to children living in out of home care is collaboration between the network of organisations supporting kinship, foster, and permanent care and adoptive families. This is one strategy being considered to ensure ongoing effectiveness and cost efficiency for PCA Families.

The financial statements included in this report have been prepared as Specific Purpose Financial Statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act, 2012*.

Roslyn Rule
Treasurer





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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

We have audited the financial report of Permanent Care Adoptive Families, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2019, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity, the statement of cash flows, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the responsible entity's declaration.

In our opinion the financial report of Permanent Care Adoptive Families has been prepared in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2019 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the registered entity in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the registered entity's financial reporting responsibilities under the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibility of the Responsible Entity for the Financial Report

The responsible entity of the registered entity is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* and the needs of the members. The responsible entity's responsibility also includes such internal control as the responsible entity determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the responsible entity is responsible for assessing the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the responsible entity either intend to liquidate the registered entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

George Georgiou FCA
Registered Company Auditor
ASIC Registration: 10310
Melbourne, Victoria
Date: 5 August 2019

STATUTORY AUDITS | DUE DILIGENCE | TRUST ACCOUNT AUDITS | OUTGOING AUDITS |
INTERNAL AUDITS | AFSL AUDITS | GRANT AUDITS

Permanent Care & Adoptive Families
Directors' declaration
30 June 2019

In the directors' opinion:

- the incorporated association is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. Accordingly, as described in note 1 to the financial statements, the attached special purpose financial statements have been prepared for the purposes of complying the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* and associated regulations;
- the attached financial statements and notes comply with the Accounting Standards as described in note 1 to the financial statements;
- the attached financial statements and notes give a true and fair view of the incorporated association's financial position as at 30 June 2019 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
- there are reasonable grounds to believe that the incorporated association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

On behalf of the officers

Meredith Carter
President
Date 5 August 2019.

Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year ended 30 June 2019		
	30 June 2019	30 June 2018
	\$	\$
Revenue	534,502	563,590
Interest revenue calculated using the effective interest method	10,949	9,385
Expenses		
Admininstation expenses	(29,736)	(42,169)
Rent expenses	(60,000)	(60,000)
Employee benefits and consulting	(161,030)	(158,234)
Project expenses	(56,570)	(57,982)
Depreciation and amortisation expense	(2,315)	(2,915)
Advocacy and support expenses	(132,467)	(143,623)
Other expenses	(101,273)	(89,846)
Surplus before income tax expense	2,060	18,206
Income tax expense	-	-
Surplus after income tax expense for the year attributable to the members of Permanent Care and Adoptive Families	2,060	18,206

Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2019		
	30 June 2019	30 June 2018
	\$	\$
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	449,715	388,823
Trade and other receivables	3,741	130,617
Total current assets	453,456	519,440
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	5,209	6,212
Total non-current assets	5,209	6,212
Total assets	458,665	525,652
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	17,994	12,931
Employee benefits	33,919	27,029
Other	-	140,000
Total current liabilities	51,913	179,960
Net assets	406,752	345,692
Equity – members' funds		
Reserves	266,000	207,000
Retained surpluses	140,752	138,692
Total equity members' funds	406,752	345,692

We acknowledge this land as the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation and pay respect to their elders, past and present.

PCA Families has zero tolerance to child abuse and is committed to establishing and maintaining child safe environments.

OUR PURPOSE

Every child deserves a family that loves and supports them. Trauma, grief, loss and attachment are issues all permanent care and adoptive families face. Our families are committed to helping their children thrive and so are we.

As the go to organisation for the community, Permanent Care and Adoptive Families delivers peer support, therapeutic programs and advocacy informed by strong lived experience and research.

We would like to thank and acknowledge the support of:



Health
and Human
Services

Level 1, 400–402 Smith Street,
Collingwood VIC 3066
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Email: info@pcafamilies.org.au
www.pcafamilies.org.au



**Permanent
Care and
Adoptive
Families**

