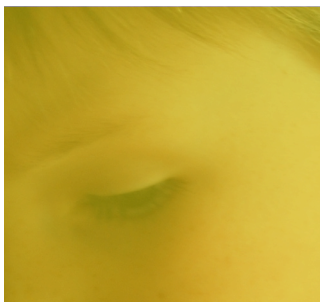
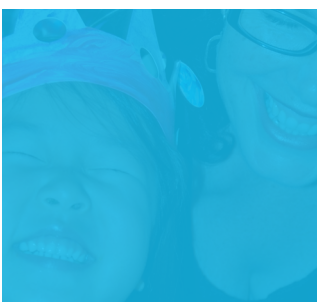
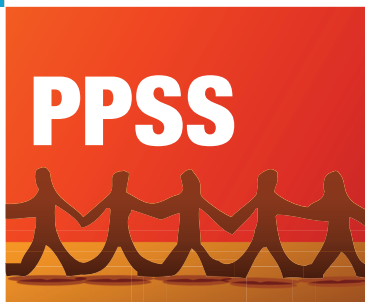


Annual Report



**Post
Placement
Support
Service**



**Kinship Care
Permanent Care
Foster Care
Adoption**



2010/2011

A message from the President

This has been another year of significant growth for the Post Placement Support Service, with the establishment of the Post Placement Resource Centre in Flemington, increasing staff numbers and expansion of our services. We are currently approaching 600 members and membership is increasing steadily. We are grateful for the continuing support of our philanthropic funding consortium – The ANZ Trustees, The William Buckland Foundation, The Collie Foundation, The Felton Bequest and the Donkey Wheel Foundation. In funding us, they have demonstrated a strong commitment to children and their families in kinship care, permanent care, adoption and foster care.

This is our first Annual Report as an established funded organisation and I think it's important to acknowledge the growth which has occurred in the last year.

The ongoing achievements and highpoints of 2011 include:

Events

- Our Children's Art Exhibition, held in collaboration with Odyssey House, was opened by the Honourable Mary Wooldridge, Minister for Mental Health, Women's Affairs and Community Services.
- The official launch of our Resource Centre, by Bernie Geary, Child Safety Commissioner.
- Our first Family Picnic held at the Collingwood Children's Farm in November which was attended by 150 children, adoptive parents, permanent, foster and kinship carers.

Submissions

- We provided written and verbal submissions to the Protecting Victoria's Vulnerable Children Inquiry and we assisted several PPSS members to prepare written and verbal submissions.

Training and support

- The Carer Information and Support Service which we run in partnership with the Foster Care Association of Victoria.
- 'Beyond consequences' training, attended by 65 participants.
- Professor Peter Pecora 'Forever Families Forever - Achieving Post Placement Stability' Seminar, attended by 115 participants.
- Workshops on behalf of the Intercountry Adoption Service, Department of Human Services.
- The popular Wise Up sessions, attended by 55 children and 58 parents in August.
- The C.A.S.E. sessions, attended by 46 parents and 16 professionals.
- Local government partnerships setting up grandparent kinship groups for informal carers.
- A number of additional small funding grants have been received to cover the costs of facilitating grandparent carer support groups.

Research and best practice

- Our Mirror Families program which has expanded and is now underway at Odyssey House and Good Shepherd Youth and Family Service.
- A statewide research project, coordinated by PPSS, looking at respite care for kinship families.

In 2012, we will be continuing to expand our education and support services, beginning with workshops in partnership with the Mirabel Foundation.

The Board is currently undertaking a strategic planning process to look at our work over the next couple of years. One new potential direction could be the establishment of direct therapeutic services within PPSS. This is an exciting possibility as it was one of our aims when we started in 2003.

Our CEO, Janet Elefsiniotis, has recently left us and we are currently recruiting for a new CEO. In the interim, I am Acting CEO. We thank Janet for her contribution over this first busy year in setting up the Resource Centre and wish her well for the future.

Thank you also to:

- Our staff (in alphabetical order) Juliette Borenstein, Jackie Cameron, Maureen Campion, Deborah Hunt, Michele Lazinchuk, Andrew Minge and Kathleen Williamson for all their achievements and dedicated work in this last year; and
- The students who have been on placement with us in 2011 – Genine Clements and Cassandra Fraser. Students always give us a fresh perspective, together with their energy and enthusiasm.

There are many other acknowledgements to be made. Firstly, I thank Gregory Nicolau, our Guest Speaker at this AGM, and his staff for providing the venue this evening.

Secondly, I want to acknowledge how much we enjoy working with the other people and organisations in our sector. We value our past, present and future partnerships with a range of organisations such as the Office of the Child Safety Commissioner, the Department of Human Services, the Foster Care Association of Victoria, Kinship Care Victoria, Berry Street Victoria, Odyssey House, Good Shepherd Youth and Family Service, The Mirabel Foundation, The Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare, the ACT Group and ICARN. We thank all of them for their support over this past year and look forward to developing these relationships in the future.

Our ongoing gratitude is due to Alice Macdougall and Lisa Croxford of Freehills who have consistently provided us with timely, pro bono legal assistance since 2003.

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Finally many thanks to the 2010-11 members of the PPSS Board for the work, passion and commitment that each of them has brought to this organisation. It is always a privilege to work with such a dynamic group. I particularly want to thank retiring Board members Dr Fiona Andrews, Dr Bronwyn Francis and Dr Patricia McNamara for their work over many years. Our continuing Board members are Anne Farrelly, Charlie Salloum, Chris Lockwood, Emily Cheesman, Chris Cook, Moira Schulze and myself.

We have been fortunate that we have attracted a number of highly qualified and enthusiastic people who have applied to join the Board for the 2011-12 year. We welcome you all and look forward to working with you.

Cas O'Neill
President

Treasurer's Report

The first year of PPSS as a funded body has concluded with a strong balance sheet despite being in an establishment phase.

Due to the start of the project being somewhat delayed until staff were employed, the budget was underspent in many areas. As a result, the project has now been extended for six months until the end of 2013. These surplus funds will be allocated throughout the remaining period, in particular as the activity picks up in the next phase of the project. In the meantime, PPSS has maximised all interest returns from these surplus funds by investing them in various secured deposit funds.

Many thanks go to our bookkeeper, Michele Lazinchuk, for setting up and maintaining the financial records underpinning these statements in such a thorough and professional manner.

PPSS is in partnership with the Foster Care Association of Victoria (FCAV) to provide the Carer Information and Support Service (telephone information and support). The service is primarily located at FCAV. However, calls relating to adoption and permanent care, and increasing numbers of calls related to kinship care, are more likely to come directly to PPSS.

PPSS STATISTICS (January to October 2011)

PPSS received 61 calls in this period. The majority of callers (65%) were from the adoption and permanent care community (27% of these were related to intercountry adoption), while 18% of the total were kinship carers. Most prevalent issues were requests for therapeutic referrals, peer support, general information and information on respite care.

CISS STATISTICS 2010/11

The 2008/09 financial year saw the service receive 239 calls and record 476 concerns. Three years later, the service took 575 calls a 141% increase on the first year. These 575 calls resulted in the recording of 685 issues, 44% more than in the first year.

In the 2009/10 financial year, a total of 488 contacts were received to the service, with 683 issues/concerns being recorded. In the financial year for 2010/11, these figures have increased, with 575 contacts received, an increase of 18% on the year before, along with a 13% increase in reported issues for a total of 772 issues for the year. Here are some key annual statistics for 2010/11:

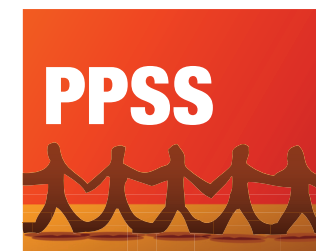
Contact Information

Calls:	486
Emails:	76
Letters:	4
Faxes:	0
Online:	6
Visits:	3

Carer Concern Breakdown

18%	FCAV – General Enquiries
5%	Financial - Centrelink
17%	Financial – DHS
4%	Access
12%	Agencies – Issues
4%	Kinship Care
2%	Permanent Care
3%	Challenging
10%	DHS – Issues
3%	Legal
9%	Quality of Care
3%	Education / Health / Mental Health

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Information Sheets

Sheets released:

Foster Caregiver Reimbursement 2010/11	Released 31/07/2010
Kinship Caregiver Reimbursement 2010/11	Released 31/07/2010
Explaining Children's Court Orders	Released 31/08/2010
Carer support during Quality of Care	Released 31/08/2010
Permanent Care	Released 31/10/2010
Caring for Aboriginal Children and Young People	Released 30/11/2010
Resources & info for gay & lesbian carers	Released 31/03/2011
Passport Applications	Released 31/03/2011

Response time

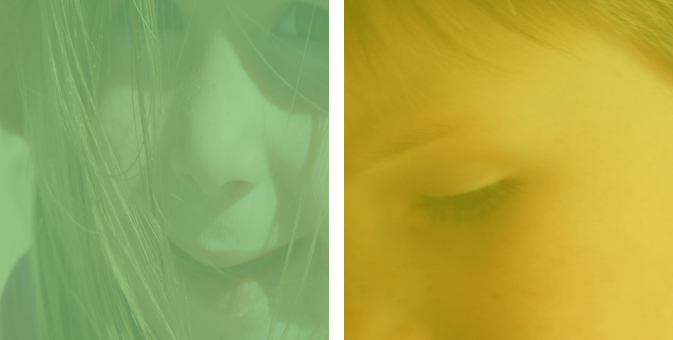
99% of concerns were responded to within 48 hours of receiving the contact (3% improvement on 2009/10)

Contact categories

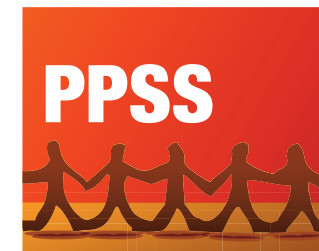
Contact received from:

404	Foster Carers	(13% inc on 2009/10)
57	Kinship Carers - Statutory	(21% inc on 2009/10)
50	Foster/Permanent Carers	(11% inc on 2009/10)
33	Adoption & Permanent Carers	(120% inc on 2009/10)
21	Kinship Carers – Non-Statutory	(31% inc on 2009/10)
6	Kinship/Perm conversion	50% inc on 2009/10)
4	Families seeking OOHC assistance	(400% inc on 2009/10)

Andrew Minge (PPSS), Beth Laister (FCAV) and Cas O'Neill (PPSS)

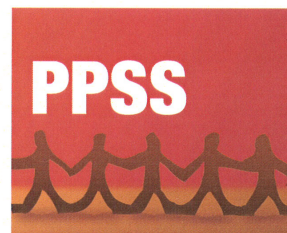


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STATEMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In the opinion of the Board of Directors the Financial Reports, Statement of Cash Flows and Notes to the Financial Reports:


1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Post Placement Support Service (Vic) Inc. as at 30 June 2011 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that Post Placement Support Service (Vic) Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board and is signed for and on behalf of the Board by:

President


Cas O'Neill

Treasurer


Charlie Salloum

November 11, 2011

P.Sulman & Associates
Chartered Accountants, Business Advisors & Tax Agents

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philip@psulman.com.au
www.psulman.com.au
ABN: 58 647 387 100

19 September 2011

The Committee
Post Placement Support Service Inc
135 Mt. Alexander Road
Flemington, Victoria 3031

Dear Sirs,

Audit report – 30 June 2011

Enclosed herewith is our independent auditor's report dated 8 September 2011 for your purposes, attached to a final signed copy of the balance sheet, P&L and accounting policy note at 30 June 2011.

We also enclose a "statement by "members of the Committee" which should be signed by the President and Treasurer and attached to the financial pack – we would be obliged if you would return a signed copy of this statement for our records.

We also wish to point out a few matters that came to our attention during the course of the audit.

Opening retained income

We note that the opening retained income differs from the closing retained income at the end of last year (30 June 2010) by \$2,637. Please ensure that when the rollover is done, from 2011 to 2012, the opening retained income for 2012 is the same figure as the closing retained income at 30 June 2011 (i.e. \$556,954.09.)

Accounting standards

Your organisation appears to fall under the jurisdiction of Consumer Affairs Victoria which means it is subject to certain rules and regulations in terms of the relevant legislation. Our understanding is that if the Association has annual gross revenue of more than \$200,000 or assets of more than \$500,000, it will be considered a "prescribed association," which means that the Association must then prepare their financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and have an independent audit process.

It would also be necessary to complete and submit under cover of a form "Annual Statement by a Public Officer," the financials to the appropriate authorities as was done last year.

Finally, we enclose our bill for your kind attention.

Kind regards,


Philip Sulman
P. SULMAN & ASSOCIATES

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

• Prepared • Precise • Proactive

