

10 minutes with Young Kin Carers

Introducing the experts with Jo Roff IFYS
26th February 2020 – QLD Kinship Care Forum 2

Q & A with YKC

Hannah Zenner
(WA)

Tracey Hamilton
(QLD)

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(VIC)

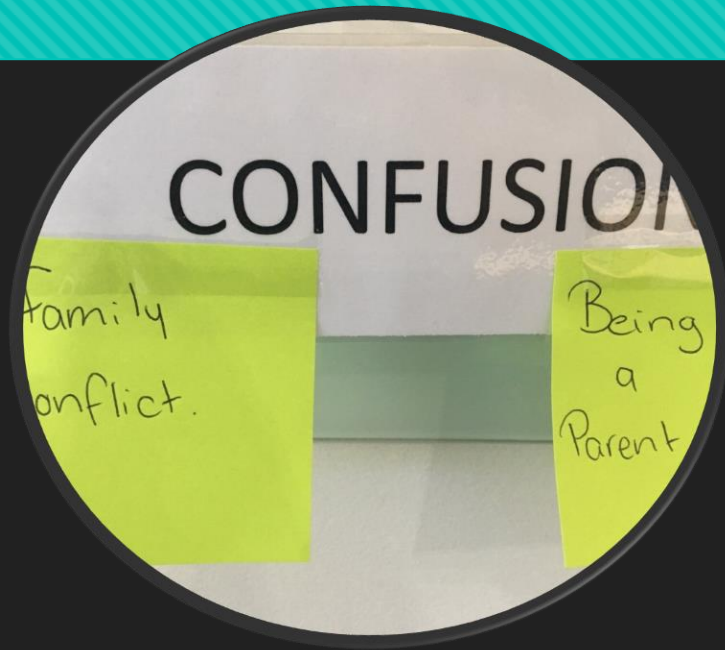
Laura Box (VIC)

The Questions

- What have been the biggest challenges for you as a young kinship carer?
- Thinking about the children in your care, what could make a difference for them?
- If you were introduced to a brand new young kin carer today what would be your advice?
- How can we better support young kinship carers?
- If you were able to speak with a politician/policy maker, what would be your key message and what would you like them to do?

Towards National Support

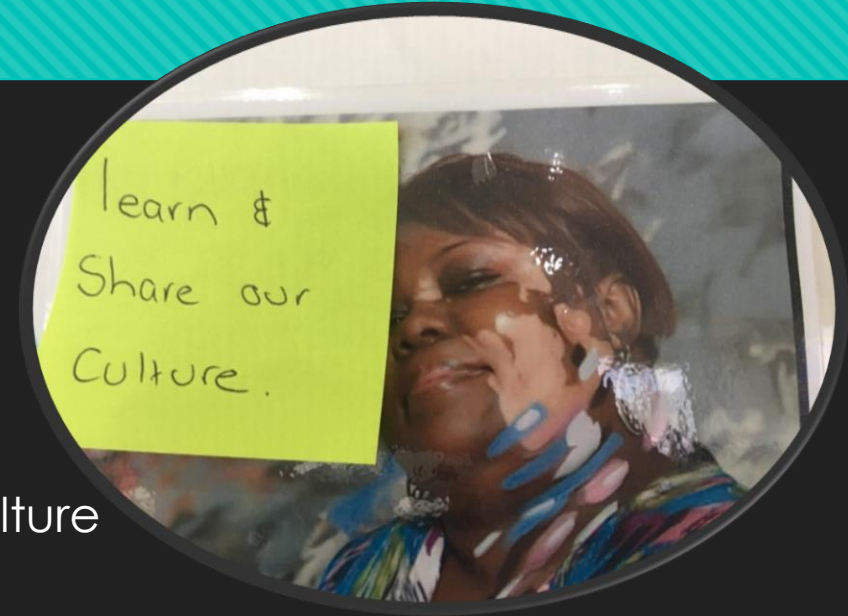
Exploring Support: Co-design with YKC



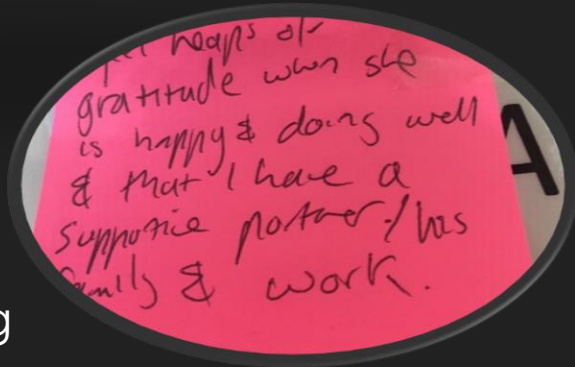
Feelings



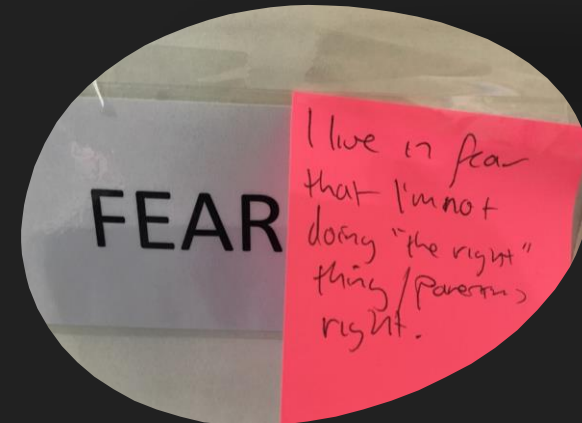
Meeting for the first time



Culture



Connecting



Sharing

What has been the biggest challenges as a YKC

“Losing my own sense of identity because all of a sudden your entire life is ruled by DHHS decisions, changes and feeling alone. Your whole world is turned upside down and the main focus is on the child going into care and not the rest of the family who need the support as well to make the best life for the child”

Narelle

**What would say to
change makers?**

We need the country to know that kinship carers are not only grandparents but young people who need your support. We are raising the next generation because their parents could not, what is more important than that? We are breaking vicious cycles of addiction, neglect and unsocial behaviour. We are on the ground, living the action. We are people. We need you.

The Support that would have made a difference

WHAT WAS NEEDED

- ❑ Access to information
- ❑ Navigating the system
- ❑ Understanding trauma
- ❑ Financial & practical support
- ❑ Educational supports
- ❑ Support for family contact with your own family
- ❑ Connection to others
- ❑ Having a voice



The Changes needed

- ❑ Public awareness of the unique needs of all kinship carer
- ❑ Federal & State governments to recognise that supporting kinship carers makes significant difference to children's outcomes.
- ❑ Census modification to allow family relationships data to be more readily available (2021).
- ❑ Recognition of formal and informal arrangements
- ❑ A National Support line
- ❑ Greater financial assistance
- ❑ Funding for support services
- ❑ Active support groups



Thank you

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